



MORRIS COLLEGE

A NOBLE JOURNEY

By Dr. Mary Vereen-Gordon and Janet Smith Clayton

The African American visionaries of the dawning 20th century resolved to establish Morris College in 1908 for the education of their race. This is your unique opportunity to join us through our looking glass reflecting the history, the heritage, the culture and the legacy of Morris College.

This extraordinary combination of intriguing text and historic photographs eloquently displays the life of this ground-breaking institution. This beautiful volume presents an account of the people who sacrificed to make their dreams become realities so that their children and future generations of African American youth would have opportunities afforded to them by a college education.

The heritage of Morris will instill in its readers a deep sense of pride and devotion. Watch the heritage of Morris College unfold to recapture its past achievements, to cultivate an appreciation of its present endeavors and to build upon the existing blueprint to solidify the future into the next millennium.

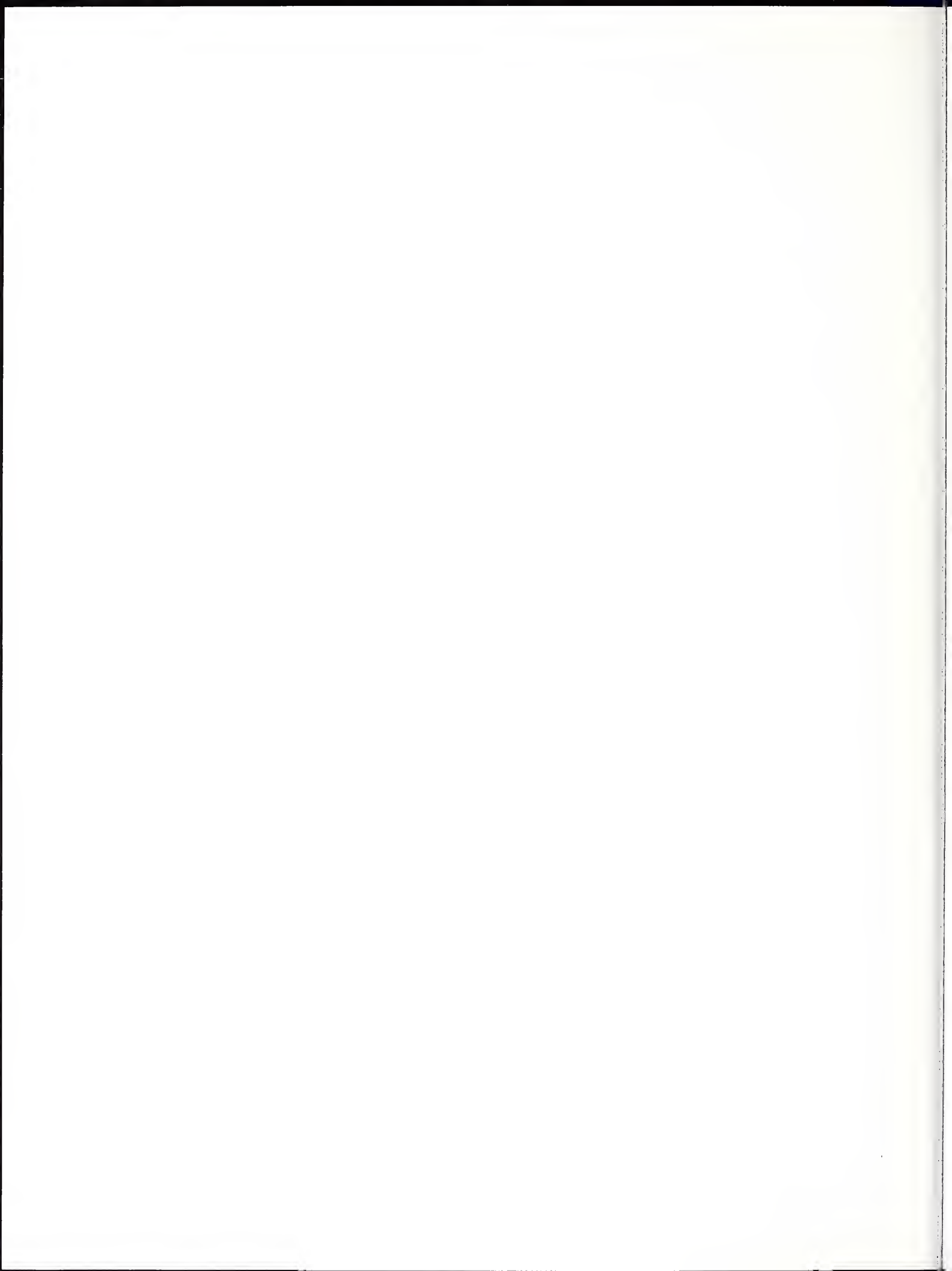


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MORRIS COLLEGE

A NOBLE JOURNEY

The Alma Mater

*MORRIS our college dear
With hearts all filled with cheer
We come to thee;
Throughout life's checkered ways
Thy name we'll ever praise
Teacher of youthful ways
All hail to thee.*

*When from our homes we came
To own thy lofty name
Breathe courage free.
Parents and teachers dear
Calmed by the lack of fear
Pay homage through the years
All hail to thee.*

Composed by Ms. Ida Y. Pullens, 1924

College Motto: "Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve."



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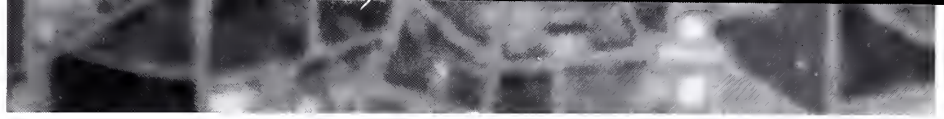
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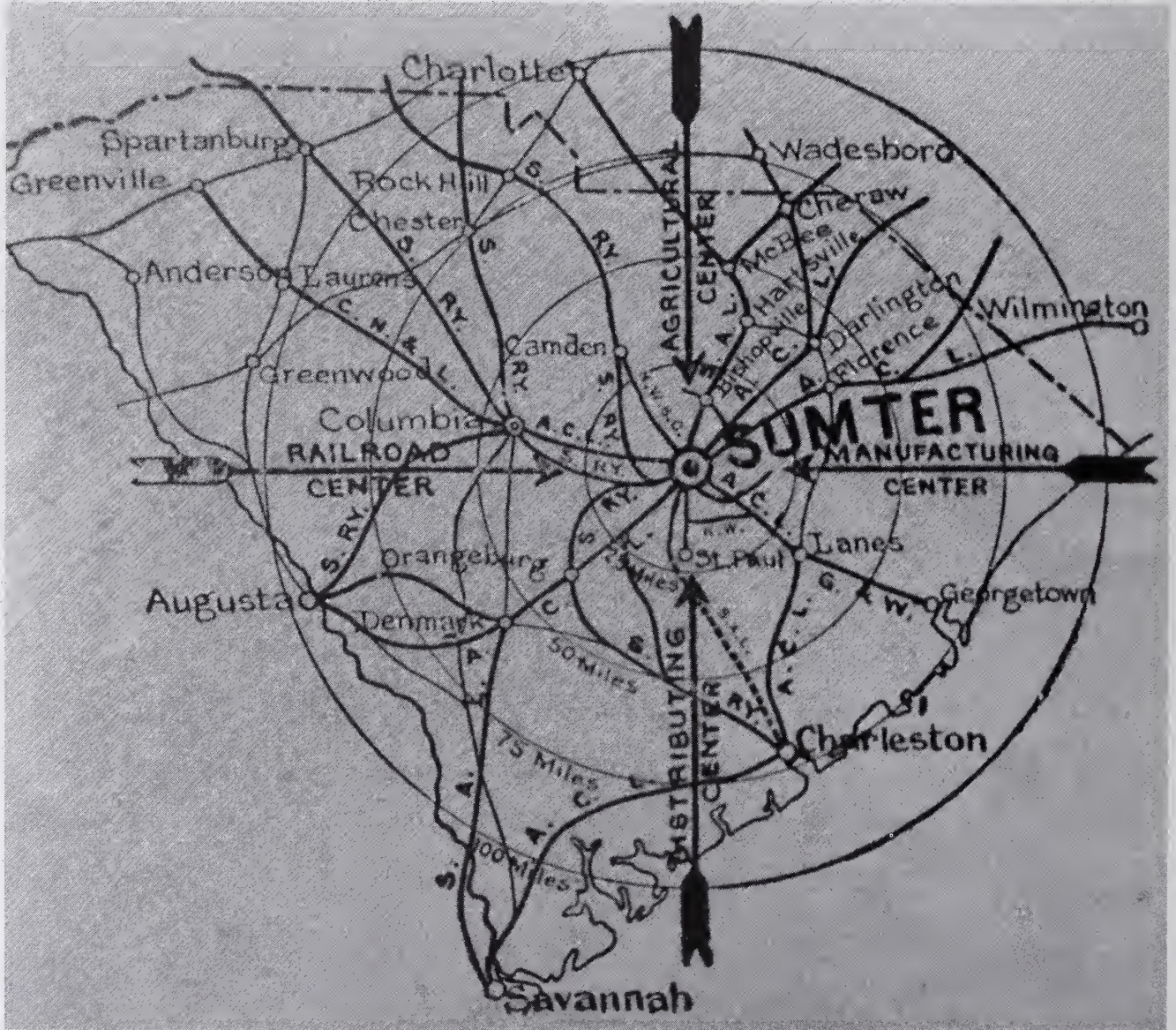
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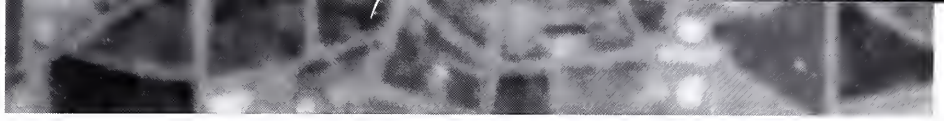
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Contents

Foreword	7
Acknowledgments	9
1 The Dawning of a Legacy: The Edward M. Brawley Years	11
2 The Starks' Years of Expansion 1912–1930	23
3 Dr. Ira David Pinson and His Ideals	31
4 The James P. Garrick Perspective	45
5 The Henry H. Butler Years	51
6 Dr. Jeff W. Boykin's Tenure	57
7 The Dr. Odell Reuben Years: Full Steam Ahead	61
8 The Henry E. Hardin Years and Interim Committees	77
9 The Richardson Years: 1974–Present	81
10 The College and its Influential Baptist Constituency	115
11 A New Mission Statement for the 21st Century	121
12 "The Fire Shall Ever Be Burning Upon The Altar; It Shall Never Go Out"	125
Alumni Reflections	137
Bibliography	139
Index	140
About the Authors	143





Foreword

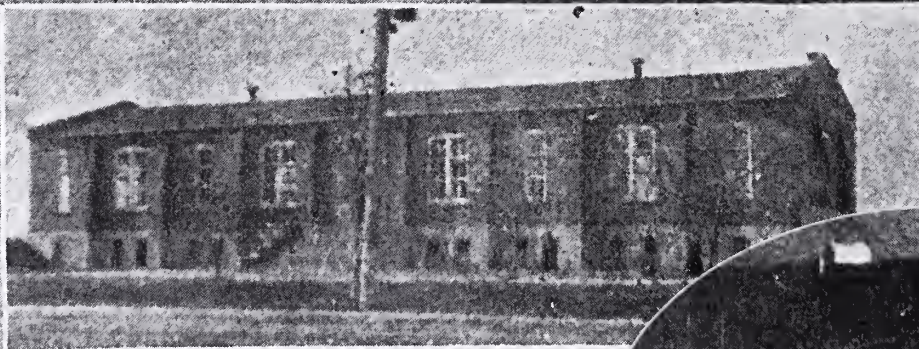
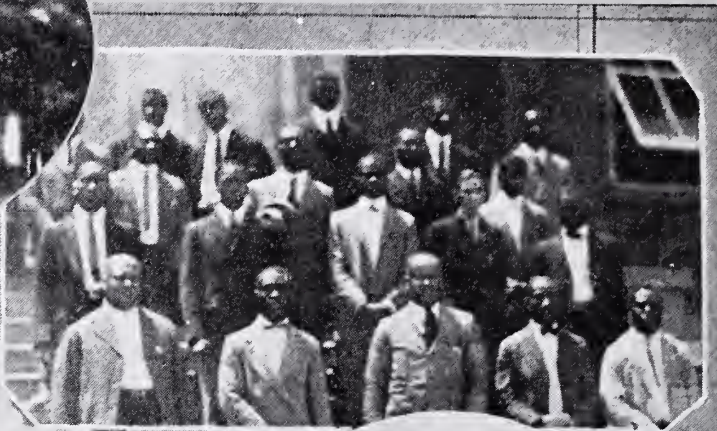
Map of Sumter.

History gives us a clearer vision of where we have been, and that in turn can provide us with a clearer vision of where we are going. Thus, as Morris College celebrates ninety years of service to its community and prepares to enter a new and exciting millennium, it can look back with pride to the many institutional achievements that mark those ninety years.

This *Pictorial History of Morris College* reveals just how far the institution has come in those ninety years from the modest wooden school which the founders worked so hard just to get started to the modern, accredited, fully staffed, fully equipped and technologically advanced institution of higher education that it is today.

This book will be of particular interest to those who have either graduated from Morris College over the years or who have served at the college as faculty, staff or trustees. However, it can also be of interest to those who are seeking an example of how faith in God, a belief in the value of knowledge and a desire to serve others can come together and produce accomplishments not thought possible. Those values are still present at Morris College today and continue to influence the thousands of young people who enter to learn and who in turn depart to serve.

Luns C. Richardson
President





Acknowledgments

1930–1931 Collection.

The publication committee wishes to express a sincere “thank you” to President Luns C. Richardson for his continuous support of the college and this project. We appreciate his efforts to provide accurate details and highlight key historical events that helped to shape this outstanding institution.

I wish to thank the chairperson of the Book Committee, Dr. Mary Vereen-Gordon, who spent many hours compiling the biographies, stories, and archival documents. There was indeed much historical content to be documented. Her linguistic expertise provided for the coordination of significant material without the loss of factual artifacts.

Without the many years of diligent documentation by a great historian, the late Dr. E. M. Booker, Sr., much of the history of the college and the convention would have been only a memory. Old photographs taken and preserved by the late Mr. E. C. Jones, Jr. of Majestic Studios, facilitated the search process to identify and document the textual history. Thank you also is given to Mr. Charlie Mathis, of Mathis Studio, for carefully recapturing the essence of those past works of art.

Contributions were offered from Dr. W. H. Neal, Dr. Margaret Davis, Dr. Beatrice Sanders, Mrs. Eunice Thompson, Mrs. Queen Spann, Director of Admissions and Records’ Archives, the literary works and archives of Dr. Arthenia Bates Millican. The staff of the Sumter County Museum Archives and Carnegie Historical Society were more than helpful with sharing of relevant documents.

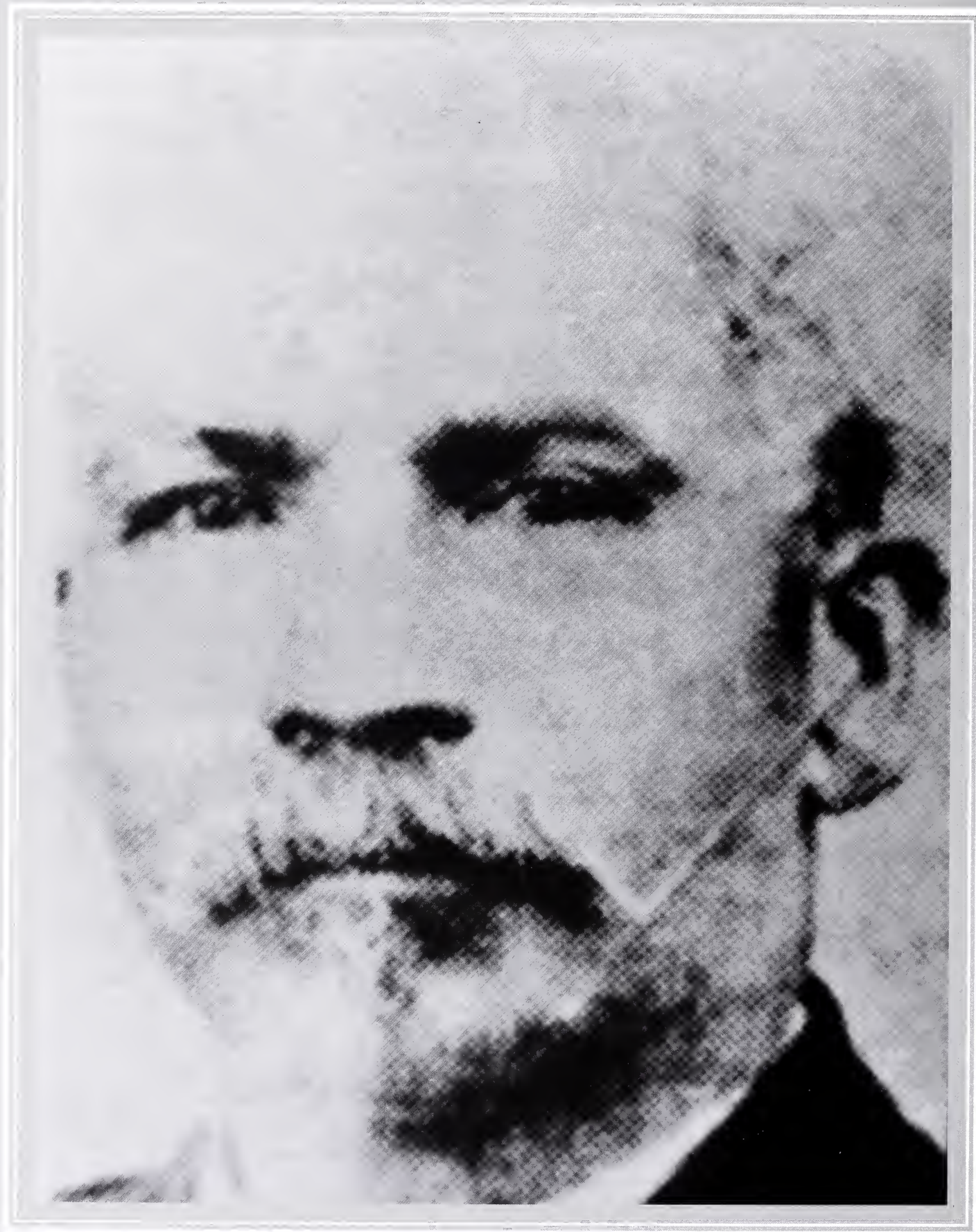
In compiling the material for the history of Morris College, we particularly thank those who helped collect alumni photos, historical anecdotes, and submitted personal scrapbooks. We have therefore included a section which tells the story of student life as it happened. We sincerely thank Pearl Brown, Leroy Bowman, Samuel L. Farrow, Frederick Golden, Dr. Alice Graves, Lou Emma Gregg, Viola Grant, Loretta Poole Hill, Wilbert Lewis, Dr. Ollie Simmons McAlister, Margaret Pinckney, Odell Reuben, Jr., Dr. Arabella Rich, Hilton Shirley, Sr., Leroy Smith, Sr., Dr. Jessie Taylor, Dr. Latta Thomas, Dr. P. T. Williams and Vird Ella Williams.

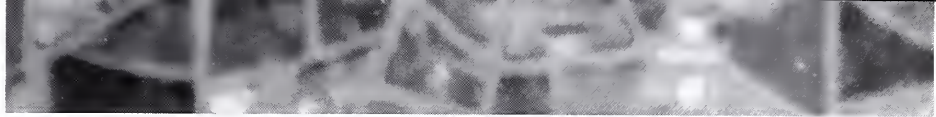
There were several people whose valuable services were used for typing, word counting, and proofreading, and computer adjustments. They were Mrs. Daisy Whittleton, Mr. Rodney Johnson, Ms. Eva Hickman, and Ms. Sunida York.

There were times when proofreaders suggested changes in the manuscripts submitted by families, in past catalogs and/or charters, changes which we could not make, simply because it would have adjusted our time frame for completion. We know those individuals will understand.

Finally, I am grateful to all of you for your many expressions of interest and support throughout this project. This is certainly a most significant way to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of this college.

Janet Clayton, Co-Editor 1998





1

The Dawning of a Legacy: The Edward M. Brawley Years

Dr. E. C. Morris.

With the physical chains of bondage severed, African-American men and women were presented with a multiplicity of adverse conditions: lack of available housing for their families, lack of skills, except agricultural ones, to earn a living to provide food, shelter, and clothing for their children. Rural South Carolina was no different than the other southern states in its treatment of emancipated men and women. Early on, the newly emancipated realized that a once taboo institution would be their mainstay in the New South. A thorough soul-searching unveiled a unifying thought that the road to freedom could not by-pass education.

The Parent Organization

In 1874, a group of African-American men bound by their religious beliefs and faith embarked upon establishing an organization which could assist the cause of the African-American race. These men sought and eventually received a charter from the State of South Carolina in 1877 to function as a recognized group replete with by-laws and constitution. The newly formed organization was the Baptist Educational, Missionary, and Sunday School Convention of South Carolina.

The Convention would aggressively pursue its primary function found in its Charter:

The object of this convention shall be to promote the cause of Christ, especially in South Carolina by establishing a Theological and Literary Institute for the training of young men for the ministry, and also for the education of our sons and daughters.

The early visionaries led by the Reverends I. P. Brockington, E. M. Brawley, Fred Brown, Jacob Legare, B. Lawson, E. Green, S. Ham, J. A. Chase, D. Jesse, I. Granthum and J. B. Green began the momentum which fostered and nurtured the purpose of the Convention, the establishment of a college.

By 1880, the Convention membership witnessed "institutes" being established for the purpose of educating "Negro youth." Yet, the Convention had no governance or direct influence on these "institutes." The emergence of the National Baptist Convention, which consolidated three conventions into one, brought a revival of urgency with the election of Dr. E. C. Morris of Helena, Arkansas as president. Dr. Morris challenged the African-American ministers with a platform which stressed "Negro ownership and control." The Morris activism influenced the Baptists across the nation and particularly those in South



Dr. I. P. Brockington.

Carolina, who returned home inspired with the spirit of empowering their race by establishing a college which would fulfill the purpose of the Convention.

Early Daylight

The Convention at Beaufort in May 1902 serves as a focal point for the "stormiest session" in its history. During this Convention, the Baptist leaders were introduced to the Tobin Resolution. These leaders had expectations that an institute which the Convention supported should have consulted with the leadership before personnel decisions were made. A bitter debate raged on. In 1903 at Newberry, the advocates of "Negro ownership and control" lost their leader in a reelection bid in the personage of Professor John R. Wilson. Yet, the spirit of ownership survived with the credit given to Professor G. W. Hayes, President of Virginia Seminary, Lynchburg, Virginia. By the Convention closing, the reverberating theme of "Negro ownership and control" had penetrated the thoughts of the leadership.

In 1905, the Convention met in Beaufort, South Carolina. A staunch convention supporter, Dr. Stewart Oliver of the Rocky River Association of Anderson County, delivered a riveting refrain: "build a college which would be owned and operated by the Negro Baptists." The message was heartily embraced, and the Convention appointed a committee of twenty-four members to seek a location and build a college.

Also, during this convention, Dr. Stewart Oliver recommended that funds be raised to secure property for the establishment of the college. In May 1906, Dr. J. J. Durham was made the Educational Secretary of the Convention. In an oratorical feat, Dr. Durham delivered an outstanding and forceful appeal to establish a college. Dr. Durham stated:

After twelve months of experience and observation on the field among the people, and after careful study and thought, I am convinced that the time has fully come, and the people are ready and willing to carry out the original object of the convention as set forth in the constitution, . . . I do therefore in the fear of God Almighty, for the highest interest of my people and my denomination, recommend, that a committee of twenty-four, the most judicious brethren among us, to be appointed with full power to act for and in the name of this convention, to secure a suitable location, to elect a Board of Trustees, and do all other necessary things, to begin a denominational college, to be owned and operated by the Negro Baptists of South Carolina.

Meanwhile the Convention elected to withdraw support from Benedict Institute established by the American Baptist Home Missionary Society. The Negro Baptists believed that their support, while appreciated, afforded the Convention with no representation. The controversy over the Benedict Institute was voiced and illuminated in light of building a college which would be owned by the Convention.

It was during this debate that the Tobin Resolution was approved which stated:

Whereas, the future interest of the denomination and the highest good of our children demand that concessions be made, now therefore be it resolved; that the present management of Benedict College is not



Dr. Stewart Oliver, moderator of the Rocky River Association of Anderson County.

satisfactory to us, and it is time that the relationship of this convention be changed toward it, and on the following basis, that the contract at least provide that we be taken in as partners in the management of the school, to the extent of nominating annually a part of the faculty of Benedict College, and the Home Mission Society the other part, and that these be submitted each to the other for mutual acceptance. Each shall report to the other plans for the future work as regards the college. Respectfully submitted, J. G. Tobin.

The Tobin Resolution did not prevent the separation of the Convention from Benedict Institute.

Dr. Durham concluded his speech with stirring words of wisdom drawing an analogy between the birth of a child and the birth of the Baptist college. He summarized:

The conception has taken place. The idea has developed. The time of delivery is at hand. The woman is in travail. The birth pains are already severe. The doctor has been sent for. The midwife has done all that she could do. The baby must be born, nourished, and nurtured. The time is now.

After this inspiring monologue, The Convention pledged thousands of dollars and appointed a committee to find a location and open the college.

The Committee of Twenty-Four were:

J. J. Durham	A. J. Johnson	P. F. Malloy
R. W. Baylor	J. C. Daniels	P. W. Simmons
A. R. Tobin	R. Kemp	E. L. Beatty
G. W. Raiford	S. L. Singleton	W. W. Peterson
E. W. Bowen	T. A. Williams	G. F. Mills
J. O. Allen	R. D. Rice	W. D. Hood
I. P. Brockington	G. W. Kennedy	S. Oliver
E. C. Dow	J. C. White	E. C. Morris

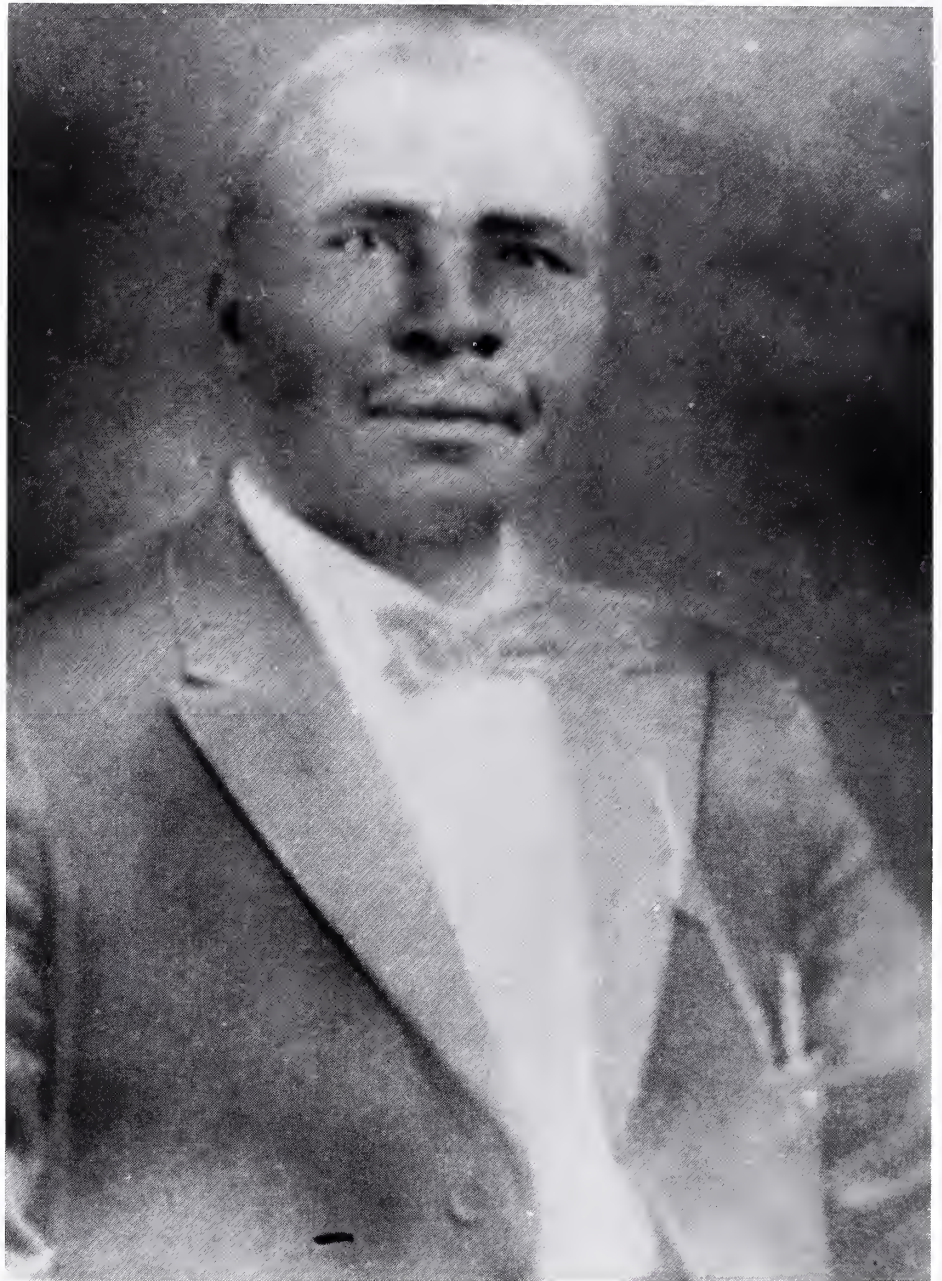
The famous Committee of Twenty-Four immediately began its work, reporting to the Convention on the progress and recommendations:

Report of the Committee of Twenty-Four on College

Mr. President: Your committee of 24 on the location of State Baptist College ask leave to submit its report: In accordance, with the expressed wish of this convention, in session at Anderson last May we your committee of twenty-four were elected with plenary power to find a suitable location, for a State College, for the Baptists of South Carolina; and if possible to start the machinery at work within this year your committee was first called to meet in the Zion Baptist church by order of Dr. Durham (chairman) in the month of July 1906.

At this meeting much spirit and enthusiasm were manifested and various towns and cities vied each for the coveted honor, of locating the long talked of Baptist College in its midst. To that meeting come bids from Gaffney, Sumter, and Anderson. Gaffney through the Thickety Mountain Association offered us a

T. B. Wright, one of the local Baptist constituents who donated land and money.



beautiful site within the incorporate limits of Gaffney; consisting of ten (10) acres of land with a new building nearly completed. The said house having been erected by the above named association, better known as the Cherokee Normal and Industrial Institute. Wateree Upper Division asked your committee to accept as a site 12 acres of land within the incorporate limits of the city of Sumter. The said property has a debt of $\frac{2}{3}$ the purchase price with the reserved right to name three of the Trustees for said College from the Wateree Association. The Rocky River Association offered ten (10) acres of land located in the city of Anderson and \$7000.00 with the endorsement of quite a number of influential white citizens pledging their moral support for said college. After a careful consideration of health locality, support and other things we decided to locate in the beautiful city of Anderson and the proposed college was named Morris College in honor of Rev. Frank Morris (a pioneer of the Rocky River Association) your commit-



Partial view of Morris College campus, 1915.

tee was called to meet again the city of Anderson, in the month of December. At this meeting your committee saw that no agreement between us and the trustees of the Anderson property could be reached where-upon another meeting was held in the Zion Baptist Church, Columbia, S.C. January 23, 1907, at which time negotiation with the Anderson Trustees was called off. From the time of our election to the meeting of present session, and as you know even since on the grounds your committee has had before it various propositions and offers. But your committee has very fully realized that the matter in hand was one of great concern to the denomination and wisdom has dictated, that your committee go slow in accepting offers. But after careful consideration and deliberation considering all circumstances we find that Sumter is the more desirable place for the erection of the State Baptist College and therefore recommend that the offer of the Wateree Association be accepted. Humbly submitted, Dr. J. J. Durham, (chairman); J. C. White, B. D., Secretary.

The Convention immediately accepted the report and began necessary action. The future site of the college sanctioned by the Wateree Association on purchased land to build a high school and now the State College would be established there. Shortly thereafter, the committee met under a persimmon tree in Sumter and President Brockington offered prayer for the site and the undertaking for the convention. There would be another shift of location when a real estate broker in Sumter offered the Convention a trade with the property which would subsequently be accepted and the college's location was changed to North Main Street, the birthplace of Morris College.

Shortly thereafter, the Convention representatives and the Reverend A. J. Johnson, a pastor and contractor, entered an agreement to build the first building on the site. That building would be named Legare Hall, to be used as a dormitory and a chapel. A small house was built nearby for a dining room. By 1911, three years after its founding, Morris College was operated in those two small-framed buildings, Phyllis Wheatley and Brockington Halls.



Dr. E. M. Brawley, 1908–1912.

The First President

In 1908, Dr. E. M. Brawley was elected the first president of Morris College charged with a formidable mission. The Convention had pledged support, the newly constructed buildings were ready, and the College must open.

Dr. Brawley was born of free parents in Charleston, South Carolina. During his early childhood, he attended private school until the age of ten years old. His parents sent him to Philadelphia for more training and he attended the Institute for Colored Youth until 1866 when he was apprenticed to a barber back in his hometown. In 1870, he entered Howard University as its first full-time theology student. Desiring to be a college professor, he transferred to Bucknell University and was graduated in 1875 as Bucknell's first Negro student.

His path to the presidency of Morris College began as a missionary whose job it was to organize Sunday schools in South Carolina. In his writings from *The Negro Baptist Pulpit*, Dr. Brawley wrote: "The great need of our colored churches is instruction in our denominational principles." He served as a professor at Benedict College and as president of the Alabama Baptist Normal and Theological School (renamed Selma University). Dr. Brawley was an energetic and powerful speaker and writer. He authored a textbook, *Sin and Salvation*, on evangelism and edited the *Baptist Tribune*, a weekly denominational organ, as well as edited *The Evangel*, a monthly pamphlet. One of his most notable passages from *The Negro Baptist Pulpit* was from a commencement address:

We need a membership prepared by grace and education that will be able to take hold and do their duty . . . We seek not the training of the head only, but, ever and above that, we seek the culture of the soul.

Under the leadership of Dr. E. M. Brawley, Morris College began its developmental phase. He presented annual reports to the Board of Trustees as president as well as to the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. In his second annual report, he recounts the previous year's work and wrote:

Morris College stands for three main things, namely loyalty to Christ at all times, under all circumstance, and everywhere; sound scholarship, and devotion to the Negro race....the year has been one of growth and prosperity in spite of difficulties and hardships. The work of the college in its various departments has been faithfully done, and the moral and spiritual life of our students well cared for. Our teachers have worked faithfully and uncomplainingly. The enrollment is nearly twice what it was last year, while we have three times as many boarding students.

The budget summary reflects a balanced budget with receipts of \$6,271.94 and payments of \$6,271.94.

In 1911, President Brawley reported that he was able "to procure an absolutely clear title in fee-simple to our property.... and obtained a charter for the college." With that announcement, the President stated that should the College in some future time have a college course, our graduates would receive the same degrees as other colleges award. The budget reflected \$2,625 used to retire the mortgages.

When Dr. Brawley presented his Annual Report during his final year as President in 1912, the financial hardships of the college were painfully visible:

The action of the trustees in cutting off one-half of the teaching force last summer, came near destroying the school. We were compelled to cut off all the lower grades, and we thereby cut off more than half of our students. Then as no dining room matron was elected, we were handicapped all the session in the management of our domestic affairs. Another serious trouble arose from the fact that we had no laundry. Girls had to wash and iron their clothes in any place they could find. We managed to make out without a regular dining room and kitchen; but the entire family life of the school would have been better if we had these things.

The budget resembled the budget of 1910, indicating the lack of substantial financial support to execute the mission of the Convention.

Early Curriculum, Early Leadership

Morris College offered a curriculum for grammar school, high school, normal college for the training of teachers, a theology course, music (for certificate), dressmaking, truck farming, and domestic science, as well as a printing department which printed all of the college's documents.

During the Spring of 1911, the first commencement at Morris College was held. There were eight graduates from the high school and one from the Theology program. It is known that a high school diploma and studies in theology were provided and all literary branches as could be supplied in other colleges were already offered. Unfortunately records of the curriculum prior to 1911 are not available. It is certainly a notable accomplishment that by 1912 a college curriculum was organized. Students passed readily from high school into college where the bachelors degree was awarded. The first bachelor of arts degrees were not conferred until 1915.

The cultural aspects of the college added mandatory prayer service and Sunday school attendance for the high school and college students. They were taught every Sunday by faculty, and international prayer meetings were held every Wednesday evening.

ACADEMICS IN THE EARLY 1900'S			
MORRIS COLLEGE		ANNOUNCEMENT	
COURSE OF INSTRUCTION			
ACADEMIC COURSE			
First Year			
First Term	Second Term		
Latin	Latin	Literature—Classics	Literature—Classics
Algebra	Composition	Chemistry	Chemistry
Composition	Algebra	Bible	Bible
Psychology	Civics	Music	Music
Bible	Music	Current Events	Current Events
Music	Current Events	Speaking	Speaking
Current Events	Speaking		
Speaking			
Second Year		COLLEGE COURSE	
First Term	Second Term	Freshman Year	
First Term	Second Term	First Term	Second Term
Latin	Latin	Advanced Rhetoric and Composition	Advanced Rhetoric & Composition
Algebra	Algebra	Latin or Greek	Latin or Greek
Ancient History	Ancient History	German or French	German or French
Rhetoric and Composition	Rhetoric and Composition	Bible	Bible
Bible	Bible	Solid Geometry	Algebra
Music	Music	Sophomore Year	
Current Events	Current Events	First Term	Second Term
Speaking	Speaking	Latin or Greek	Latin or Greek
		German or French	German or French
		Critical Period Am. History	Trigonometry
		Astronomy	Geology
		Bible	Bible
Third Year		Junior Year	
First Term	Second Term	First Term	Second Term
Latin	Latin	English	English
El. Greek	El. Greek	Economics	Economics
English History	History	Psychology	Ethics
Plane Geometry	Bible	Chemistry or Physics	Chemistry or Physics
Bible	Music	Bible	Bible
Music	Current Events	Senior Year	
Current Events	Speaking	First Term	Second Term
Speaking			

Certificate of Incorporation.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION

*R. W. Bayler, Columbia, S.C.
J. J. Durham, Aiken
Granley, R. W. Wherry and A. J. Johnson, Sumter, S.C.*

officers or agents appointed to supervise or manage the affairs of

Morris College 12th day of April

which has been duly and regularly organized, and so the

the with the Secretary of State a written declaration setting forth

meeting of the proposed organization held pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 214, Act No. 100, of the Acts of the General Assembly of the State of South Carolina, 1902, and the said organization, they were authorized and directed to execute the

the organization holds no charter to hold, property in common for such purposes, and no other purposes, and is not organized for the purpose or profit of any one of its members, who have taken the oath of office for the purpose of

on three days' notice in the *Register* a newspaper published in the County of *Sumter*

and the aforesaid declaration would be filed,

terms, *That said Declaration and Petition*, further declared and affirmed

Then names and residences are as above given

The name of the proposed Corporation is *Morris College.*

The place at which it proposes to have its headquarters, or to be located is *Sumter, S.C.*

The purpose of the said proposed Corporation is *to carry on the educational and industrial work for negro youth with full college powers to enter universities and seminaries*

The names and residences of all Managers, Trustees, Directors, or other officers, are as follows:
*E. W. Granley, President
Durham, R. W. Bayler, G. B. White, A. J. Johnson
Aiken, Sumter*

That they desire to be incorporated *perpetually*

Now, Testimony, I, E. M. McDOWEN, Secretary of State, by virtue of the authority in me vested by Chapter 214, Article II, Code of 1902, and Acts amendatory thereto, do hereby declare the said organization to be a lawful entity and incorporate with all the rights, powers, privileges and immunities, and subject to all the limitations and liabilities conferred by said Chapter 214, Article II, Code of 1902, and Acts amendatory thereto.

GIVEN under my Hand and seal of the State of Columbia this 12th day of April 1902, and in the one hundred and thirty-third year of the independence of the said State of South Carolina.



2

The Starks' Years of Expansion 1912-1930

Dr. J. J. Starks.

Amidst financial constraints from the Convention, Dr. E. M. Brawley resigned his position as President of Morris College. When Dr. Brawley resigned and the search began for the second president of Morris College, officials of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina set their sights on Dr. John Jacob Starks who possessed a distinguished record as head of Seneca Institute in the upstate.

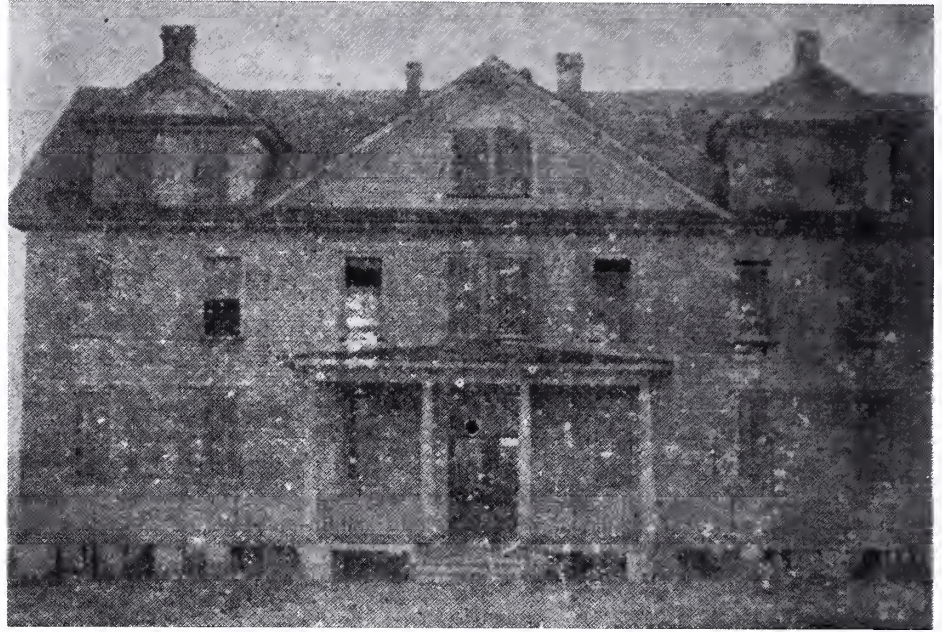
The Rise of Starks the Administrator

Starks was reared on his family farm in a remote section of Greenwood County and attended Benedict Institute as a ministerial student for two years before dropping out in order to earn money to continue his education. He took a part-time teaching position in Georgia and South Carolina, planted cotton and sold it to raise college expenses. When he decided to return to school, he enrolled at Atlanta Baptist Seminary, which later became Morehouse College, where he remained for six years as a theology student. His class was the second college class to graduate from Morehouse.

There was only one high school graduate in Oconee County and no provision of any sort for secondary education of Negroes when young J. J. Starks was called to teach at Seneca Institute. Upon his advice, a three-room building was erected on the school site. Students came from the upper western Piedmont area of South Carolina and from Georgia. Many of those enrolled were academically unprepared, but Starks and his small staff took them through a rigorous course of study which included reading, writing, grammar, spelling, history, geography, arithmetic and Bible. After three years, housing was built for boys and girls. When Starks left thirteen years later, Seneca Institute, which preceded Seneca Junior College, was a thriving institution, with an exceptional faculty and financial stability.

Dr. Starks was asked by Dr. E. D. White, General Secretary of the Baptist E and M Convention, to become president of Morris College. On October 1, 1912, the convention met at Zion Baptist Church in Columbia and elected him president of Morris College.

Original Legare Hall, 1915.



First graduating class, 1913. Seated on the front row, second from right: Leta Marshall Holloway. Back row: Dr. J. J. Starks, President.

New Leadership and New Business under Prevailing Conditions

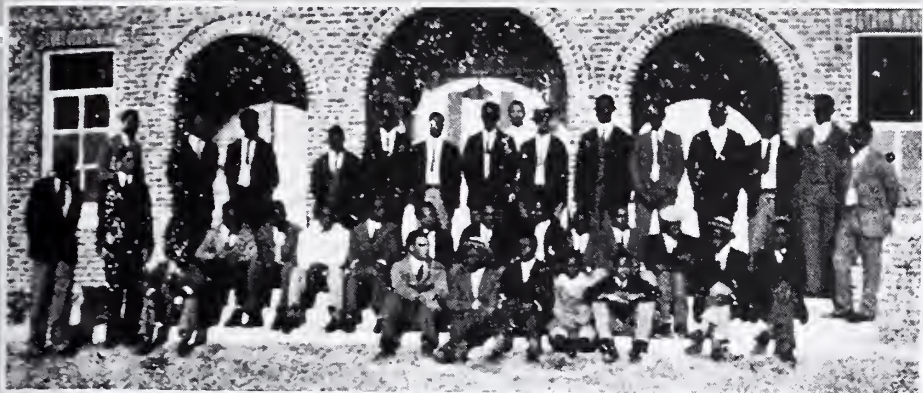
In mid-November, Dr. Starks arrived on the Morris campus to find the school on the verge of bankruptcy. Meanwhile, creditors repossessed furniture as he hurriedly descended on Sumter to negotiate a deal to get beds, mattresses, tables, chairs and desks to keep students from leaving.

Thrifty and recognized as a “born financier and a man of means,” President Starks began the huge task of retiring the college’s \$11,000 indebtedness. At the same time, he and other dedicated faculty members worked on upgrading Morris’ curriculum which offered literary, theological and industrial education for Negro youth.

Expanding Offerings

Building on the Charter of the College to offer an undergraduate program, Dr. Starks along with his faculty set out to address the existing need of the students. The college required eight full years of grammar school prior to entry in the high school program. The four-year high school program, called the “Academic Course,” prepared students for teaching and preaching careers. Finishing the Academic Course admitted one to the four-year College Department. The grammar school curriculum, known as the “Normal Course,” centered on a program of study which included such basic subjects as reading, writing, spelling, grammar, arithmetic, geography and Bible. All students took courses in Bible. Ministerial students were required to take special courses in theology. The Bible was taught as a textbook in all years of study at Morris.

Collection of early classes, 1920s.



One of the first published catalogues, dated 1915–1916, listed the following academic courses for first-year high school students: Latin, algebra, composition, physiology, music, current events, speaking and Bible. During the second year, students took advanced study in those subjects along with ancient history. New courses for the third year included English, history, plane geometry, and elementary Greek. The rigid curriculum continued in the fourth year with the addition of chemistry, literature and classics.

The Teaching Course

Under President Starks, special programs were also designed for students who wished to pursue teaching or enter the world of work. In the teachers' course, the first two years of study were identical with those in the academic course. During the third year, these students took classes in English, history, botany, physics, agriculture, plane geometry, Bible, music and teaching. Courses during the fourth year were English literature, South Carolina history, sociology, chemistry, music, teaching and pedagogy.

Achievement of a Milestone

The first two graduates from the college program—Dorothy Mae Hadden and Frank DeLaine—were awarded their baccalaureate degrees in 1915. As the college course gained recognition, more Morris high school graduates formed the habit of completing the college course for their degree work rather than going to other institutions as had been the practice.

The college program exploded, offering its initial liberal arts curriculum:

Freshman Year—foreign language (Latin, Greek, German or French), Bible, solid geometry, advanced rhetoric and composition.

Sophomore Year—language, American history, astronomy, Bible, trigonometry and geology.

Junior Year—English, economics, psychology, chemistry or physics, Bible and ethics.

Senior Year—Bible, evidences of Christianity, zoology, sociology and essays.

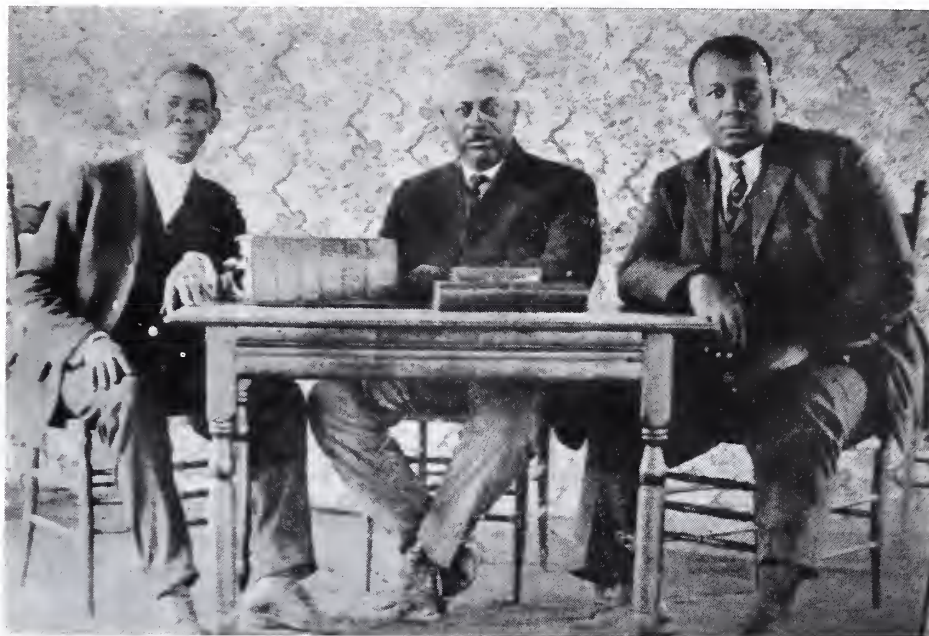
The First Honorary Degrees

In 1917 and 1918, Morris College awarded its first honorary Doctor of Divinity degrees to Reverend Charles Taylor and Reverend James M. Nabrit, respectively. The first Licentiate Instruction (L.I.) degrees in teaching were awarded to eleven students in 1919.

Continued Growth and Productivity in the 20s

During the 1920–1921 academic year, Morris had 1,230 students enrolled from grammar school through senior college. In 1924 the college's program in dressmaking, truck farming, domestic science, poultry raising and bookkeeping became the Department of Vocational Industries. In 1926, the Normal Department became the Department of Education.

Men in Divinity School.



The Morris College Board of Trustees, composed of pastors and lay persons from the state's Black Baptist convention, held supreme control over the institution and helped in raising financial support. Morris' program operated at precisely the level its income permitted, so trustees and President Starks had the continuing task of raising money.

The budget for the 1923-1924 academic year was set at \$50,000 and President Starks agreed to raising half of it—\$15,000 by himself and \$10,000 from the Black Baptist conventions which supported the college. The balance would come from tuition and fees collected from students.

Physical Plant Construction

Under the watch of the Starks' administration, Morris' physical plant multiplied from eight acres and one poorly-planned wooden structure to forty acres and six brick buildings, worth nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

Courageous Faculty and Staff

One of the college's greatest assets was its faculty—skilled Christian men and women educators who provided the inspiration, counsel and convincing example that led their students to real achievement. Among those serving on the faculty during President Starks' administration were Mr. J. T. McCain, Academic Dean; Dr. W. W. Clark, theology and psychology; Mr. E. G. Maddox, history and music; Mr. B. L. Campbell, mathematics; Dr. J. P. Garrick, Bible; Dr. C. W. Birnie, physiology and Negro history; Mr. V. M. Williams, Supervisor of the Graded School; and Dr. I. D. Pinson, who was elected Morris' third president in 1930.

President Starks also received some outstanding support from another person on the staff—his wife, Mrs. Julia Ann Sherard Starks, who served as Assistant Bookkeeper. She was an astute businesswoman who kept track of all funds and made sure that bills were paid.

A Challenging Transition

In 1930, Dr. Starks resigned to accept the presidency of Benedict College. That year Morris was changed to junior college status and entered into an agreement with Benedict. Under the agreement, Benedict would drop its high school and students would transfer to Morris, and Morris would only offer the first two years of college.



Building was named for Mr. H. McGowan. He was one of the first to donate ten acres of land to Morris College. The bricks in this hall were hand-made. It was later named Brawley-Starks Hall.



Students in uniforms, class in
instrumental music, 1922-1923.





3

Dr. Ira David Pinson and His Ideals

Dr. Ira David Pinson, 1930–1939.

With the departure of Dr. J. J. Starks from Morris College, all of the outside aid was withdrawn from the College. In addition, the period of the Great Depression brought about the loss of spirit and confidence during such an upheaval.

The Compact

The emergence of "The Compact" further dampened the advocates and supporters of the institution. Simply, "The Compact" was an arrangement whereby Morris College was to be made a Junior College; this arrangement lasted two years. To form the compact, a committee from the Trustee Board of Morris College met with a committee representing Benedict College.

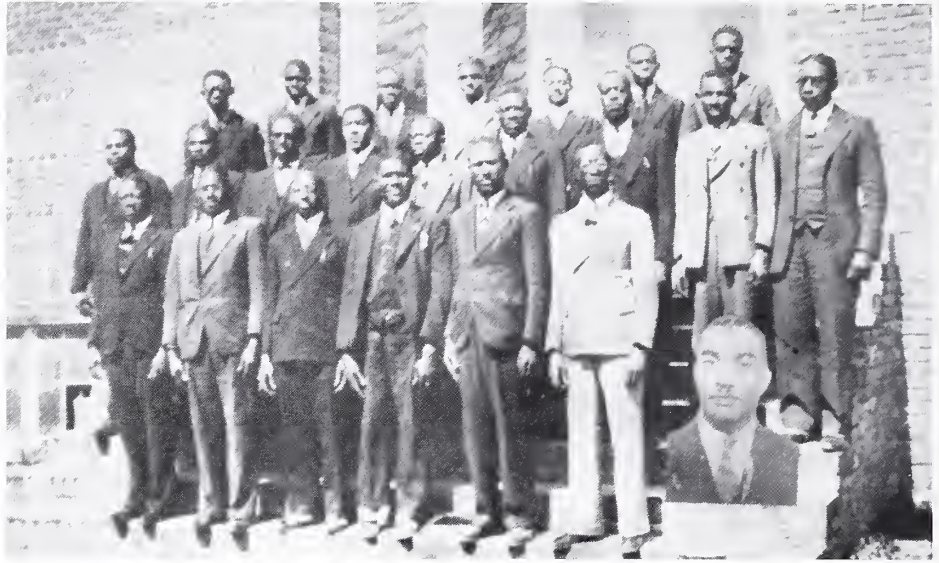
The meeting was held at Benedict College. Dr. Hovey of the Home Mission Society was present along with Dr. Starks, and Mr. Felton who represented Benedict College and Reverends I. W. Williams, R. W. Baylor, A. A. Sims and William Howard who represented Morris College. When the agreement was finalized, Morris College was left with virtually no financial support. Upon appeal, Dr. Hovey suggested that Dr. Starks present a gift of \$2,000 to Morris College. Further indications suggest that the \$2,000 allowed the institution to function for one year, but it was apparent that the Baptist State Convention must find a way to keep the doors of the College open.

The Third President

The election of a successor to Dr. Starks became a heated debate. Finally, in a meeting of the Trustee Board, voting by roll call, Professor I. D. Pinson was elected to the post. Dr. Pinson had served for several years as a faculty member at the College. He had earned an A.B. from Benedict College, completed post-graduate work at Colgate University for the A.M. degree and Yale University for the B.D. degree. He was a learned, polished and upright Christian gentleman who brought dignity to the post. As an orator, Dr. Pinson had few equals. He labored hard under peculiar disadvantages, but performed his role in an effective manner.

After two years, the Compact was abolished and he restored the junior and senior year program which had been discontinued under the compact. In pulpit or on platform, Dr. Pinson was the essence of refinement and learning which naturally was passed on to his students, the faculty and the Baptist family.

Durham Ministerial Union.



OFFICERS: J. N. Carr, President; E. C. Fogle, Vice President; R. A. Fishburne, Secretary; C. M. Morgan, Assistant Secretary; Wm. McKinley Bowman, Treasurer; H. O. Harvey, Chairman Program Committee; T. O. Everett, Critic.

MEMBERS: J. W. Davis, M. M. Beattie, J. W. Carter, J. R. Howard, G. L. Pearson, S. J. Weston, L. W. Williams, I. P. Moses, M. C. Allison, J. L. Fogle, H. H. Horton, T. N. Bines, W. A. Williams, R. C. Pleasant, C. Ford, C. N. Sullivan, W. J. Windham, G. B. Gilliard, C. R. Neal, J. N. Carr, C. M. Morgan, Wm. McKinley Bowman, H. O. Harvey, T. O. Everett.

Dramatic Players.



Eula Gerald, Camille Moses, Mary H. Blackman, Garna Jackson, Hattie Frazier, Catherine Bishop, Beatrice Gregg, Annie L. Hall, Otelia Taylor, Eleanor Handberry, Erma Lewis, Charles Humbert, Pearl Watkins, Charlotte Jordan, Wm. Sanders, Jack Tarketon, Carl Brown, George Buck, Walter Brown, A. J. McConnell, Albert Burroughs.

Commercial Club.



OFFICERS: Henry Zimmerman, President; Theodore Everett, Vice President; Susie M. Pinckney, Secretary; Edith Humbert, Assistant Secretary, E. C. Fogle, Treasurer; C. Murray, Chairman Program Committee; Wm. M. Bowman, Chairman Initiation Committee; R. T. Williams, R. Richards, Wm. Moses, B. Roberson, Sponsors.

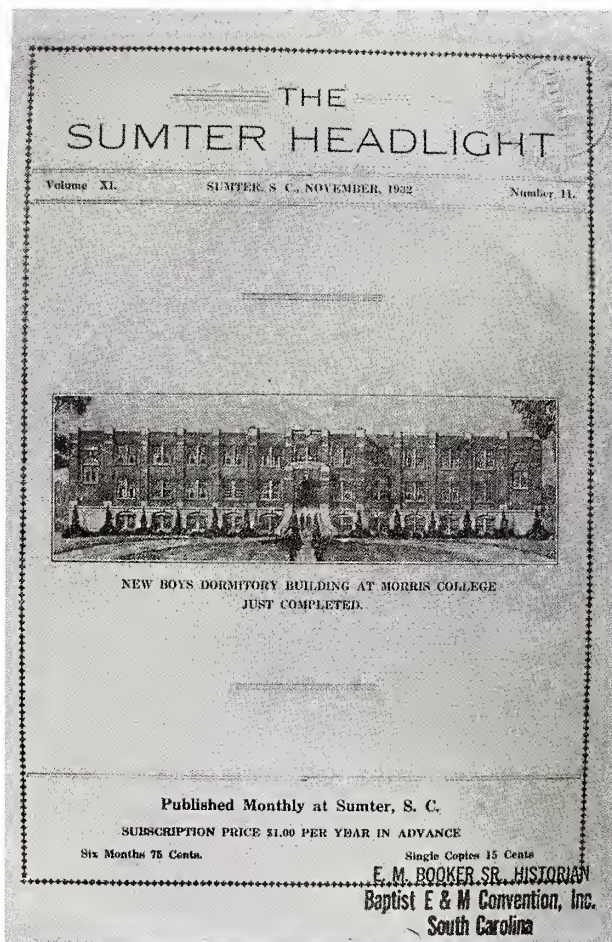
MEMBERS: Wm. McKinley Bowman, Editor School Paper—"The Campus Voice"; Clifton Morgan, Managing Editor; Otelia Taylor, Co-Editor; Margaret Humbert, Co-Editor; Carrie Murray, Co-Editor; Camille Moses, Co-Editor; Etherine Thompson, Co-Editor; Centry Prince, Co-Editor; McCormick Norris, Co-Editor; H. O. Harvey, Co-Editor; Carl Brown, Literary Editor; Theodore Everett, Literary Editor; Roland Niles, Literary Editor; Edith Humbert, Art and Music; W. H. C. Bowen, Art and Music; A. Humbert, Henry Zimmerman, Drawing-Sketching; Susie Pinckney, Society-Personals; Isaiah Boone, Adds and Humor; George McCain, Circulating Manager; E. C. Fogle, Religious Editor; R. A. Fishburne, Religious Editor; Garna Jackson, Who's Who Column; Celestine Bacote, Did You Know That Column; James Simmons, Did You Know That Column; Beatrice Gregg, Sports Column; L. C. Handberry, Sports Column; Marie Bradley, Sports Column; Mozetta Flemings, Sports Column; Gardena Garrick, Sports Column.

Strengthening Curriculum and Building Intercollegiate Sports

Under his leadership, the college was challenged to strengthen curriculum and intercollegiate sports were developed for student participation.

During 1931–1932, the *Catalog* identifies curriculum offerings in Junior College, High School, Teacher Training Course, Theological Department, School of Music, Commercial course work, and Home Economics. Enrollment during this period was 265 students in the high school and college with 25 students in theology. In addition, preparation in pre-law, pre-medical study and pre-dental study were listed.

In 1933, with the restoration of its four year status, Dr. Pinson brought about further expansion of the liberal arts curriculum. The Brass Band and orchestra were added to the music program. The commercial course was expanded to include typewriting and shorthand. In 1937–1938, student organizations such as Pi Alpha Sigma Honorary Society and the Student Council were added.



The Sumter Headlight, 1932 publication.

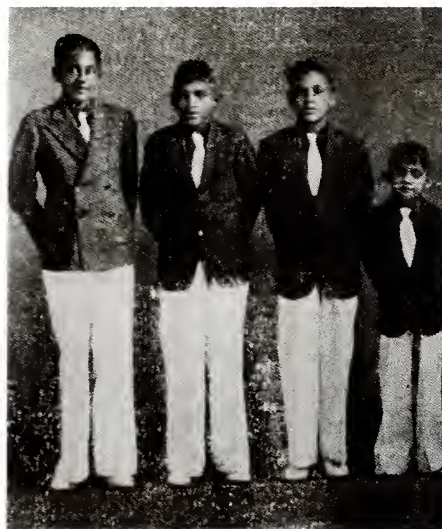


Top: The Little Symphony Orchestra.

Bottom: The Little Theatre.

Left: The Pinson Brothers Quartet:
Eugene Pinson, Sylvester Pinson,
James Pinson and Davis Pinson.

Right: The Campus Female Quartet:
Sue Williams, Nannie Mae Deas,
Mary F. Blackman and Grace
Jackson, 1937.



The first summer school session was offered during the summer of 1940.

According to the 1932-1933 *Catalog*, intercollegiate athletics is indicated in football and baseball membership in the South Atlantic Intercollegiate Athletic Association. In addition, basketball, tennis and golf were provided for students. A new men's residence hall was constructed and named Brawley-Starks Hall.

Oratorical Magnificence, Commitment to Morris College

During a period of expansion of the curriculum, construction of a new building, and increased student activities, Dr. Pinson addressed the Baptist E and M Convention calling for continued support. He stated most eloquently the case for more support.

"A Penny A Day"

Upon a certain occasion in the life of the Master, when His followers were inclined to be puffed up and proud in their own importance as the first followers of him, Jesus uttered that famous parable of the laborers in the vineyard. Now, there was no room for mercenary thoughts even of future rewards, for the discharge of their duty. The special reward promised by the Master was a free gift of God, not the payment of a debt, and depended on their own spirit and zeal.

The object of this article is not to enter into a homiletical dissertation. I only wish to borrow from those memorable words of Jesus, the slogan "A Penny A Day."

Today, nobody doubts the value of an education. This is the day of the thinker. If we refuse to learn to think, we refuse to do our share of the world's work. We are like a horse that balks and will not pull. Spelling and arithmetic, history, ethnology, and geography, are not tasks set over school children by a hard taskmaster, who keeps them from sunshine and out-of-door play. They are the implements by which each brain is to be trained to do great work for the one in whom it lives. What every earnest soul asks is not gold, fame, or pleasure. It is: Let me not die till I have brought millions farther on.

Little wonder then that our schools are seeking endowments. They have to endow in order to grow. They have to grow in order to live. When they cease to grow, they die.

Morris College is trying to raise in four years an endowment of \$100,000. This effort has been sanctioned by all conventions. Solicitors are now on the field having churches, Sunday Schools, B.Y.P.U.'s classify themselves and getting individual pledges. In some instances the response is pleasing. In others, as is to be expected, there is a tacit evasion of responsibility and an attempt to "pass the buck" to somebody else. Nevertheless, we are going ahead with our plans and are going to put it over, but we need the assistance of everyone. There is a place on our pledge card for every church, from the largest to the smallest mission.

Now back to my subject. Suppose every one of the 250,000 Negro Baptists of South Carolina should give a penny a day for Christian education. That would be \$2,500 a day and in 40 days would have our \$100,000. Lest you fear this is impossible, let's make it easier still. Suppose every pastor, in every church, at every service, should ask for ONE PENNY A SERVICE as a side offering for Morris College Endowment, the church that averages 200 members at each service would get in this special collection, two services, \$4.00 a Sunday, or \$208.00 a year. We pay a penny tax on our cigars, cigarettes, cold drinks, etc., and buy three or four a day, how could we refuse to pay a penny educational tax at each Sunday service? Then, too, from special entertainment, concerts, Morris Club organizations, every church, if it would, could go beyond its pledge, and neither church nor pastor hurt thereby.

Let us rally around the cause. It is not mine, but OURS. Each of you is owner. Let us work as never before, so that when we have passed on, we can report to God of the Universe that we have done our duty. Let us leave to rising generations, and generations yet unborn, a heritage of love, a plant through which the whole light of God's truth may shine into their young lives- not an impoverished, darkened light, but the pure light of heaven.

Sincerely, I. D. Pinson

The Brawley-Starks Hall.





Snapshots about campus, 1939.

Those words spoken set the stage for the major need of the College—to build endowment funds. With the publication of the *Morrisite* (1939) Dr. Pinson wrote:

Humanity needs a faith that love is at the heart of life, that love is superior to hate, that men must become brotherly or they will perish, that a law of service and sacrifice underlies life, that the law of sowing and reaping is in the structure of things, that happiness is an accompaniment or consequence of the good life and never an end, and that the only permanent award of life is Creative Living.

Perhaps, this statement may have forecast Dr. Pinson's future. In the summer of 1939, Dr. I. D. Pinson met a tragic and untimely death which shocked the Convention and the College.



The Reverend Leon Henry David (1856–1923) significantly influenced Dr. Pinson; was the maternal grandfather of Arthenia Millican; was a charter member of the Baptist Convention; was one of the first men to put his five dollars on the table to help buy land for Morris College and Moderator of the Sumter Union for twenty years.



The Reverend Jesse Pinson, father of President Pinson, built Shiloh Baptist Church, now First Baptist Missionary Church.



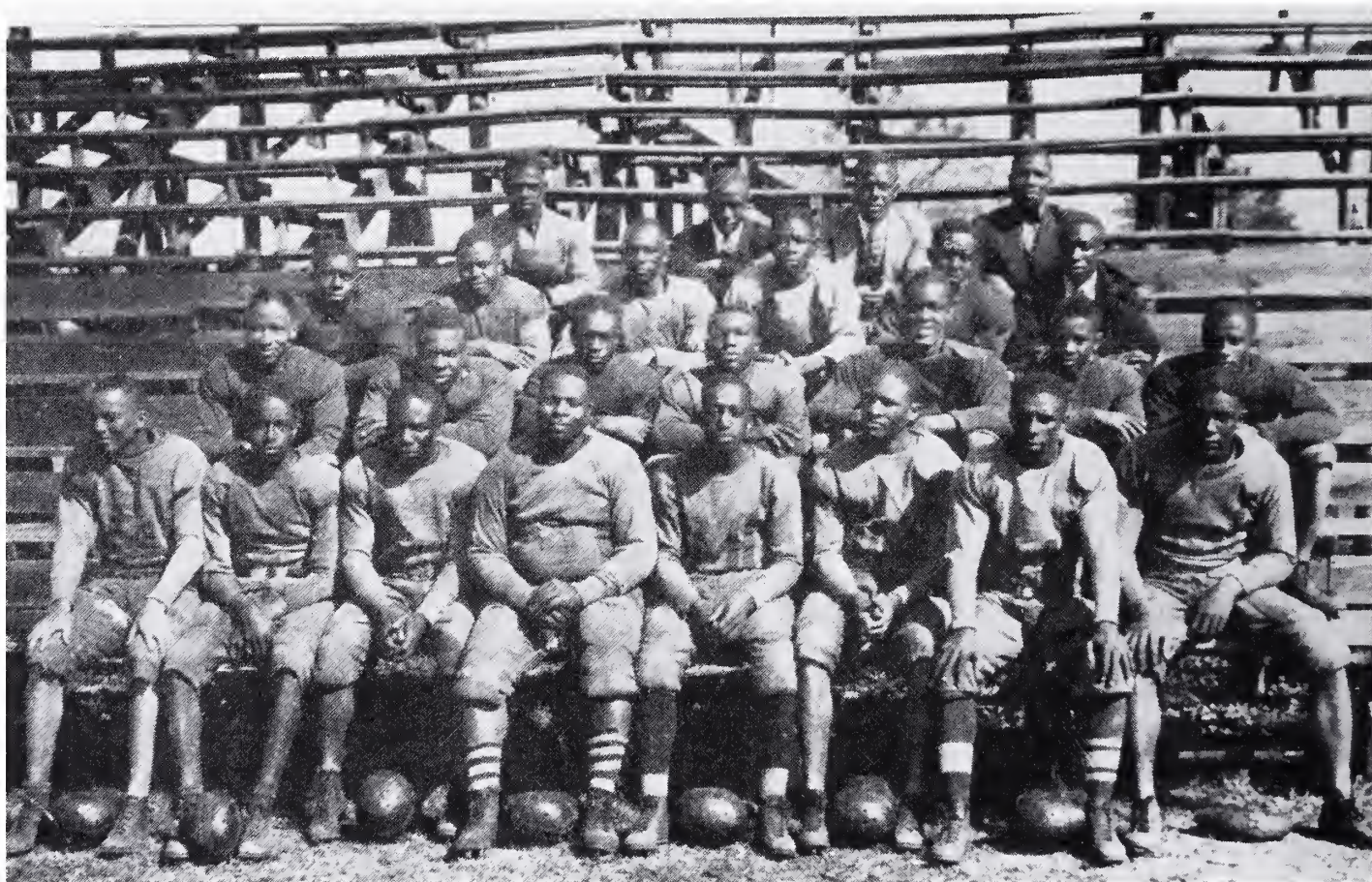
Mrs. Pinson is wife to Reverend Jesse Pinson and mother to President Pinson.



1937 Faculty: (L-R) top, M. W. Campbell, Mrs. B. A. Pinson, L. C. Cox, B. McCullum, W. J. Burgess, Mrs. Barton; bottom, Dr. C. W. Birnie, Dr. S. J. McDonald, Dr. E. C. Jones, Edith Humbert, W. H. C. Bowen.



Sophomore class in front of Academic Building, 1939.



Football squad, 1937.

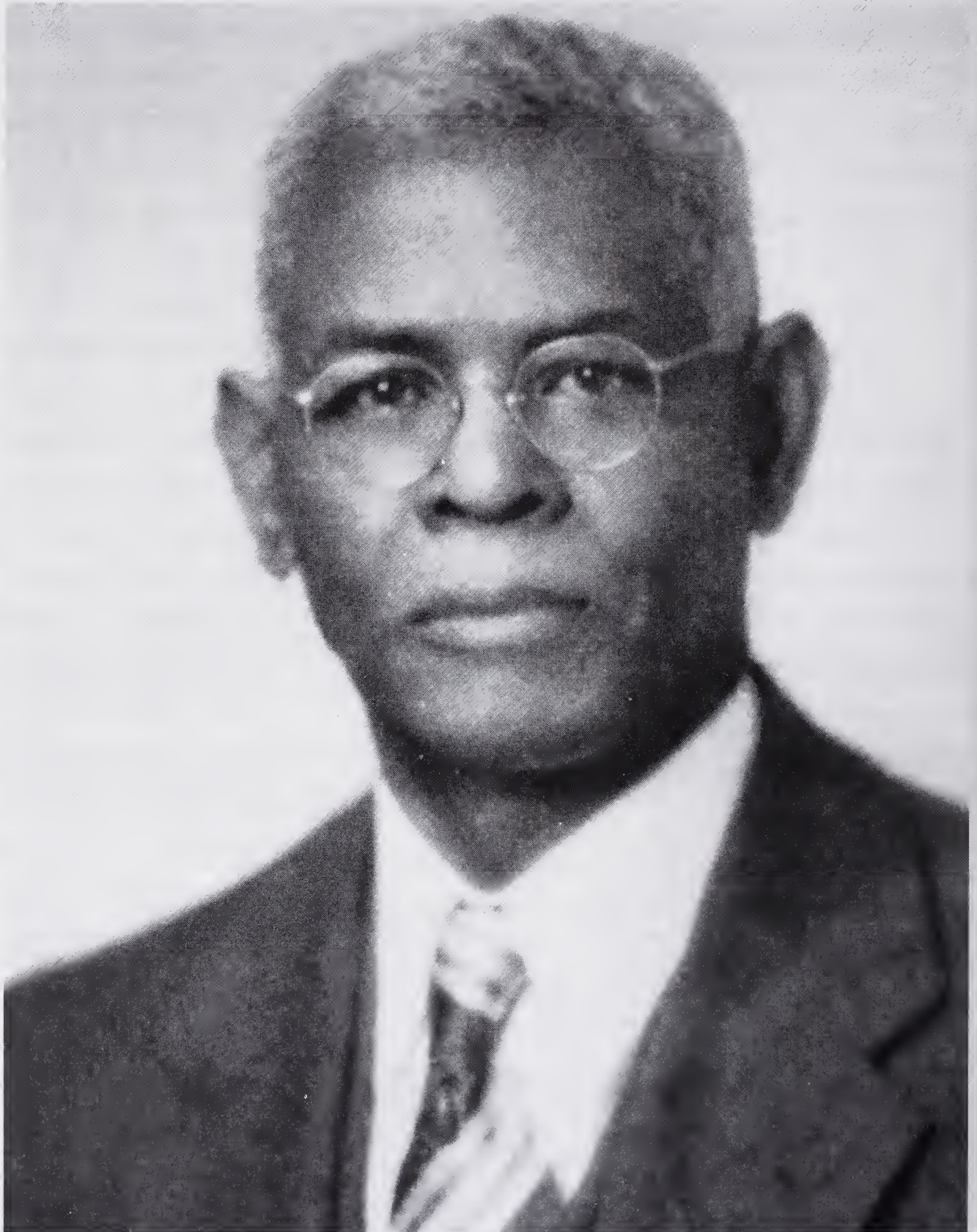


Baseball squad, 1937.

Collection of photos on campus life.







4

The James P. Garrick Perspective

Dr. James P. Garrick, 1930–1946.

After the death of Dr. I. D. Pinson, the Trustee Board met in White Memorial Hall where discussions on the election of a new president were held. The decision reached was to place the College in the hands of the President of the Convention, Dr. H. H. Butler and the Chairman of the Trustee Board, Dr. J. W. Boykin, charging them to select an Acting President.

The choice for acting president was Dr. J. P. Garrick who had been a member of the faculty and was an experienced businessman. Dr. Garrick received his education with an A.B., B.D., A.M., and D.D.

Financial Crisis

The 1939–1940 academic year opened under the leadership of Dr. Garrick. Drs. Butler and Boykin were busily evaluating the financial condition of the college. Numerous debts were against the college. On September 26, 1939, an appeal by H. H. Butler, C. F. Gandy and Mabel K. Howard went out across the state to bring the State Convention and its two auxiliaries together to discuss the condition of Morris College. Approximately one thousand people gathered to rally behind the Acting President, Dr. Garrick and the college. On this day over \$3,000 was laid on the table. Although the amount given would not erase the debt, it represented a message to the Baptists assembled there: Baptists must support the challenges to the Convention and Morris College must survive.

The Newly Created Institute for Ministers and MidWives

Under the leadership of Dr. Garrick, the institution continued to expand in some areas while limiting other offerings. In 1940–1941, the college responded to basic needs of the race and offered a three-week institute for midwives and a summer institute for ministers. Summer sessions were increased to two in 1941–1942 and in 1943–1944 and the institution discontinued the first year of high school. At this point in the history of the Department of Religion, a series of courses was offered called the “Standard Leadership Curriculum.” In 1942,



The entrance arch to the campus.

the Board of Trustees in its annual meeting in May, voted to discontinue high school work at Morris College.

Memberships, Awards and Recognition

Through the accumulated success of the college through its programs, its support from the Convention and its dynamic leadership, Morris College attained greater recognition and credibility within the state and the region. Acceptance by the offer of memberships into collegiate organizations included: The Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools for Negroes, the National Association of Collegiate Deans and Registrars in Negro Schools, the National Negro Library Association, and the Palmetto State Teachers Association (Negro).



Above: The College Seal, 1941.



Top Right: The last high school class of Morris College.

Bottom Right: Graduating class of 1941.



Transforming Years, New Directions

Upon Dr. Garrick's resignation in 1946 due to failing health, the Trustee Board met and immediately elected Dr. H. H. Butler as President of the college. Also, the Trustee Board unanimously appointed Dr. Garrick to honorary President Emeritus in recognition for all the significant contributions which he had made to Morris College.



Students around campus, 1945.
(submitted by Vird Ella Williams)

The freshmen class of 1942.
Class officers were: John Williams,
President; James Simmons, Vice
President; Sadie Ross, Secretary;
W. F. Bultman, Treasurer;
Janiece Brown, Student Council
Representative and Reverend
J. P. Garrick, Faculty Advisor.







5

The Henry H. Butler Years

Dr. Henry H. Butler, 1946–1948.

Conquering Another Financial Crisis

In 1946, Dr. H. H. Butler faced a most difficult task as president with debts against the institution, the completion of a library project needing funds and the possibility of losing its teacher training program threatened by the State Department of Education. Nonetheless, Dr. Butler's experience as an educator and businessman proved invaluable in addressing these problems. Dr. Butler was graduated with an A.B., A.M., B.D. and D.D. which he put to excellent use in his tenure at the college. He held the presidency of the Baptist Convention and of Morris College simultaneously.

First, Dr. Butler's ability as an educator provided the background needed to negotiate with the State Department of Education. Representatives from the State visited the campus often in the investigation of students receiving credits for course work not taken. The program was saved and the negative image surrounding the college began to dissipate. The next challenge was a testimony to his financial and administrative skill. Using his business acumen, the library project was finished at a cost of \$100,000 and by the end of his first year as president, a balance to the credit of the school was listed at \$65,999. At the time of his death in January 1948, Dr. Butler had effectively accumulated over \$90,000 to the credit of the college in banks at Hartsville and Sumter and was seeking an "A" rating for the college.

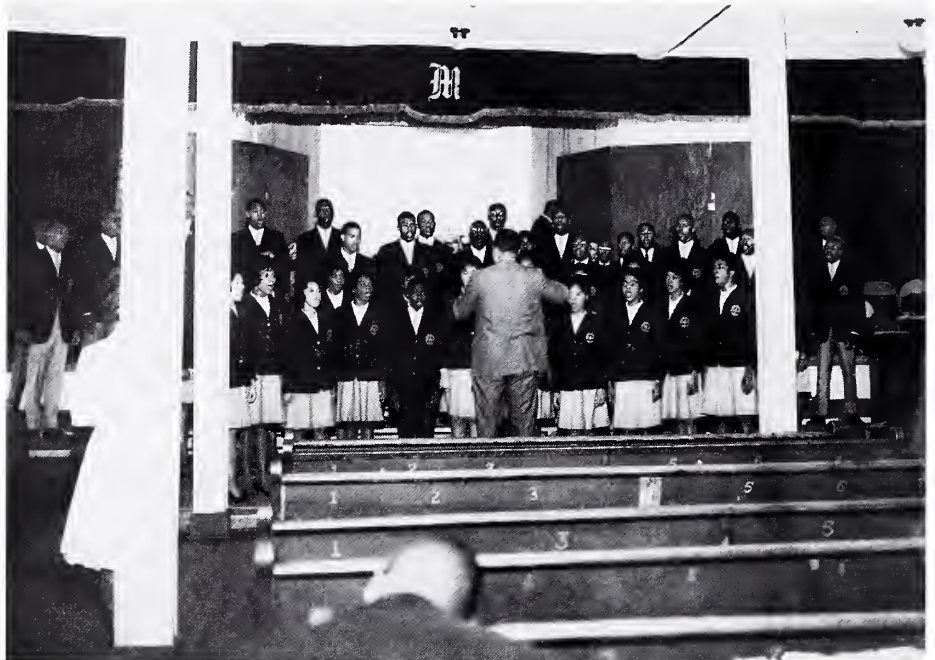
Dr. Butler gave willingly to the college and its students. In addition to his contributions, he began to groom a young man who would much later become the ninth president of the college, Luns C. Richardson. Not only did he serve as this young man's pastor and mentor, but was instrumental in ensuring this young man's acceptance and matriculation through another black college in South Carolina.

With the Pinson Building finished, the second floor was used as a library and was dedicated in memory of Dr. Ira D. Pinson.





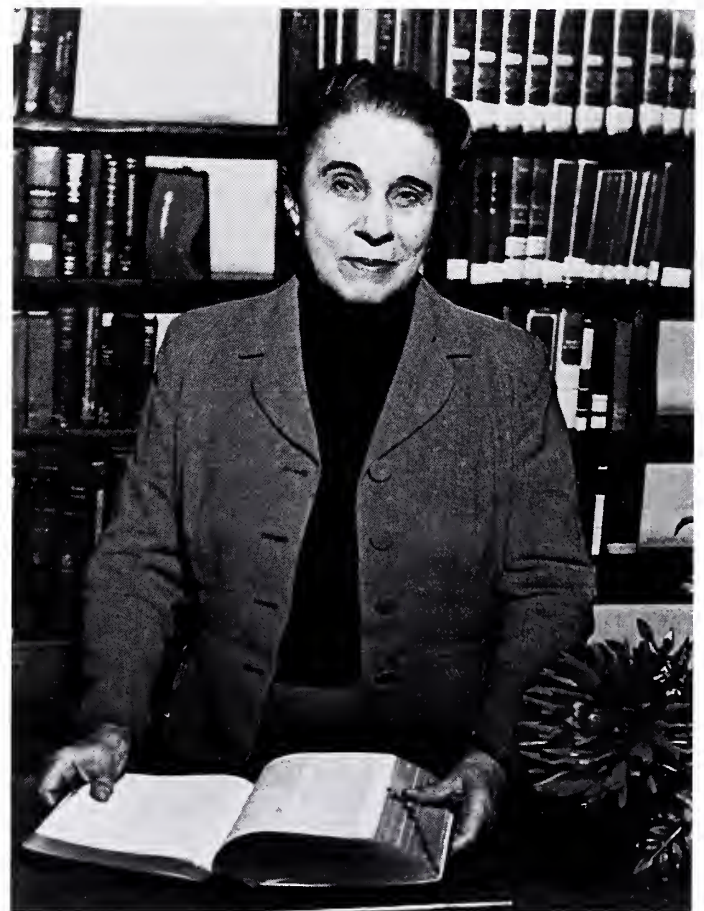
E. D. White Chapel.



Choral performing in Chapel.



Dr. E. M. Booker, Professor and Historian.



Dr. Ira David Pinson's wife, Bessie Pinson, was Head Librarian.

Dr. E. M. Booker in white lab coat.



Chemistry lab, 1947.

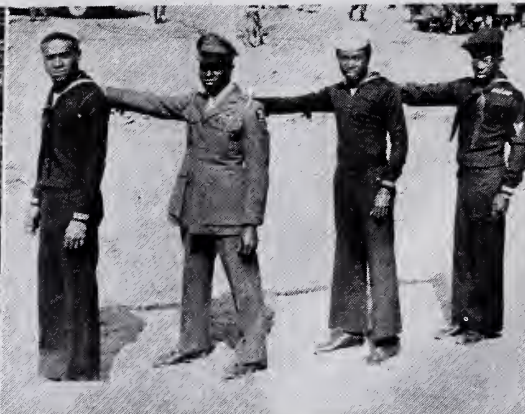
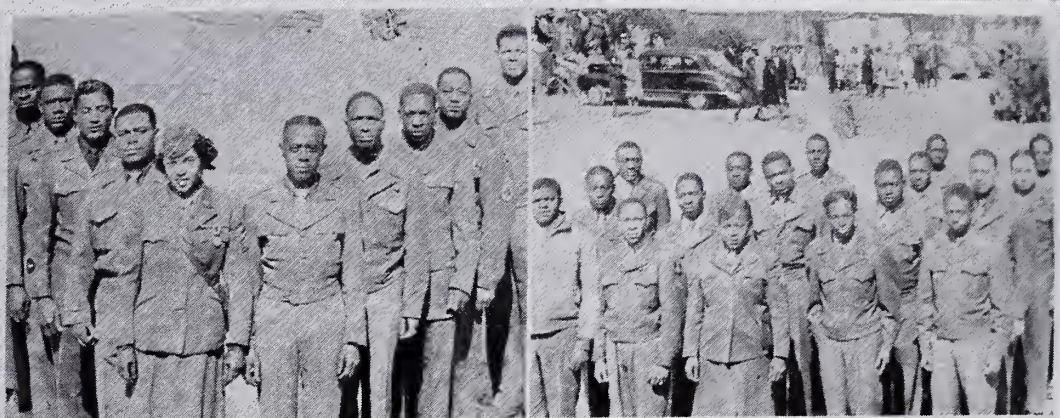


Staff of the 1947 *Morrisite*, Mr. Hilton Shirley, Editor-in-Chief.



First picture, left to right: John Stewart, Burnie Dozier, Henry Sims, Louis Porter, Lucille Ballou, Clarence Shuler, Julius Belle, Lucious Scott, Robert Martin, Robert L. Laney.

Second picture, left to right: First row: Robert Conyers, William Walker, Maggie Ellison, Johnnie Odom, James Stackhouse. Second row: Nehemiah Wright, Earl Rayford, Dennis Brogdon, Samuel Dicks, David Dawson. Third row: Hilton Shirley, Louis Porter, William Levy, Azariah Laney, Hayes Baker. Fourth row: Joseph Murray and Charles.



Fourth picture, left to right: Benjamin Boykin; Charles Parker, Murray A. Fleming, and James A. Mickell.

Military on campus.



Baseball team, 1947.



Football team (Leroy Bowman played left half).



J. T. McCain, Dean, 1947.

“A Message from the Dean of the College”

TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1947—
STUDENTS AND ALUMNI OF MORRIS COLLEGE:

Let us not forget that the people who have been successful in their life have always been cheerful and hopeful men and women, who have gone about their business with a smile on their faces, and took the changes and chances of this mortal life like men and women, facing rough, smooth alike as it comes.

Ideals are like stars; you will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the desert of waters, you choose them as your guides and following them you reach your destiny.

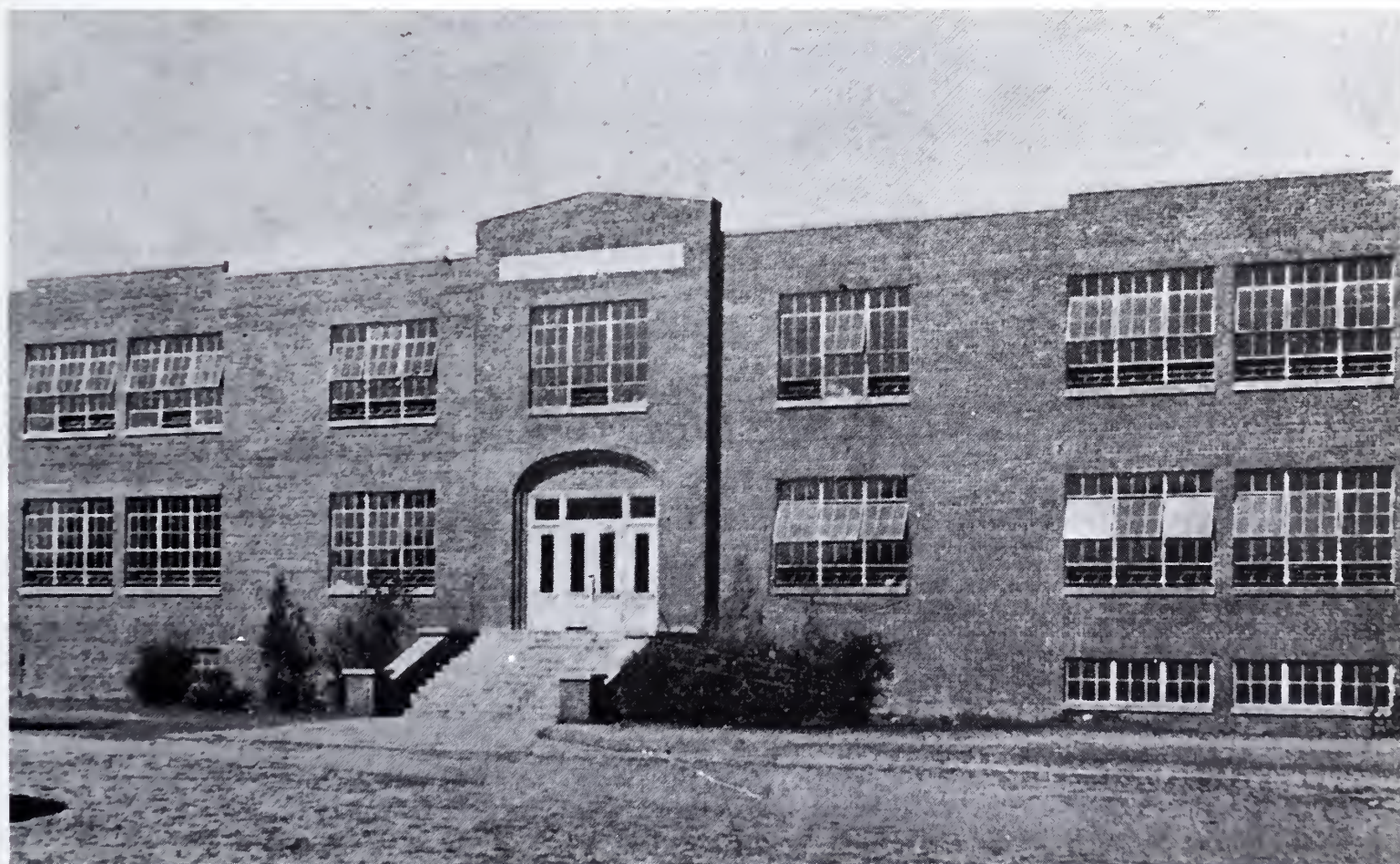


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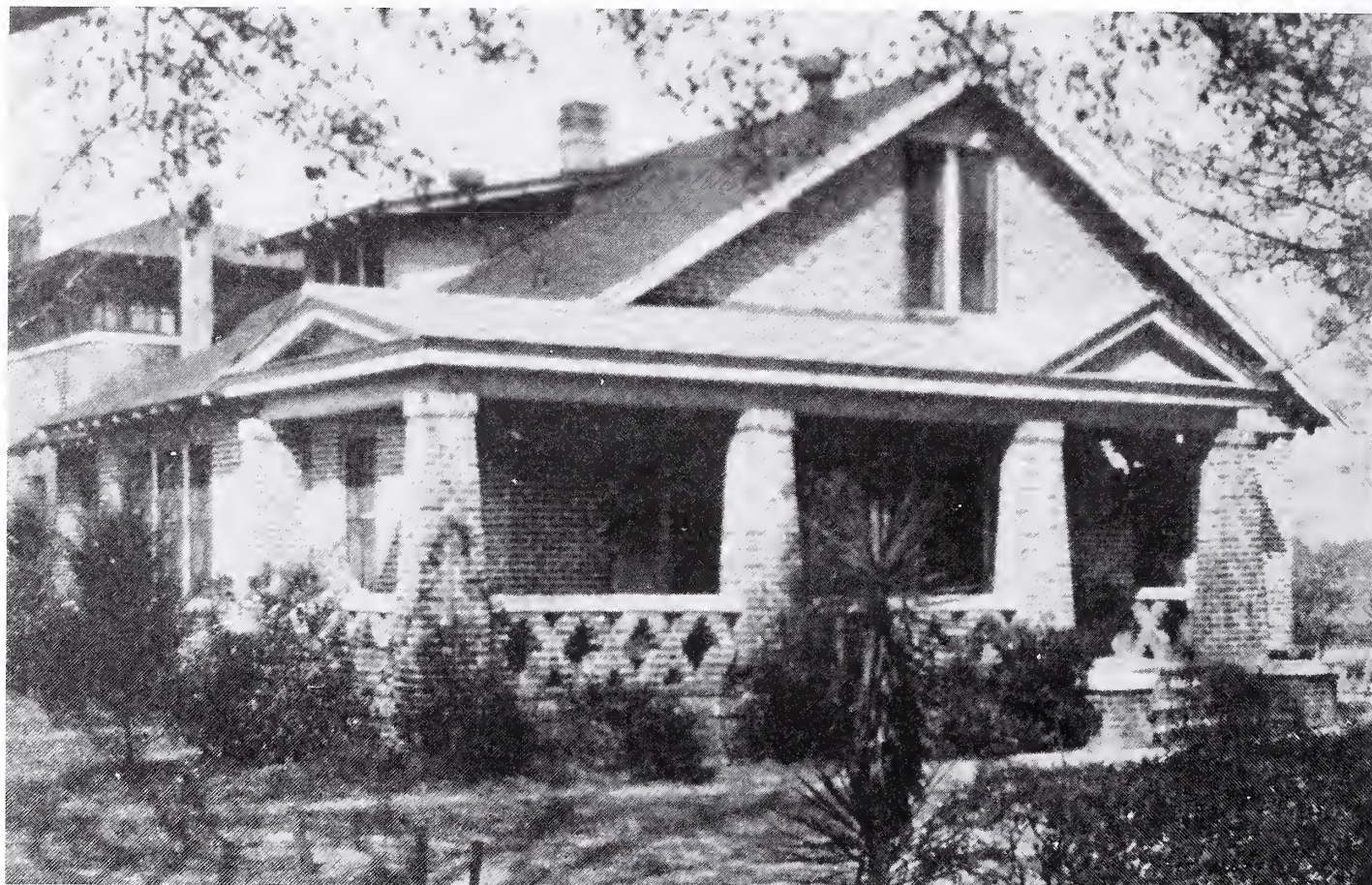
Dr. Jeff W. Boykin's Tenure

Dr. Boykin was one of the founders of Morris College and had served for many years as Chairman of its Board of Trustees. His tenure was for the 1948 school year.

The next Acting President of the college would come from the Trustee Board. Dr. J. W. Boykin, Chairman of the Trustee Board, took charge of Morris College and carried the work of the college to a successful end in May 1948. The tenure of Dr. Boykin lasted only one semester, and it was during this year that the School of Religion became a separate entity from the college. Dr. Boykin held a B.D. from Richmond Theological Seminary and a B.D. from Virginia Union University as well as an A.B. and D.D.



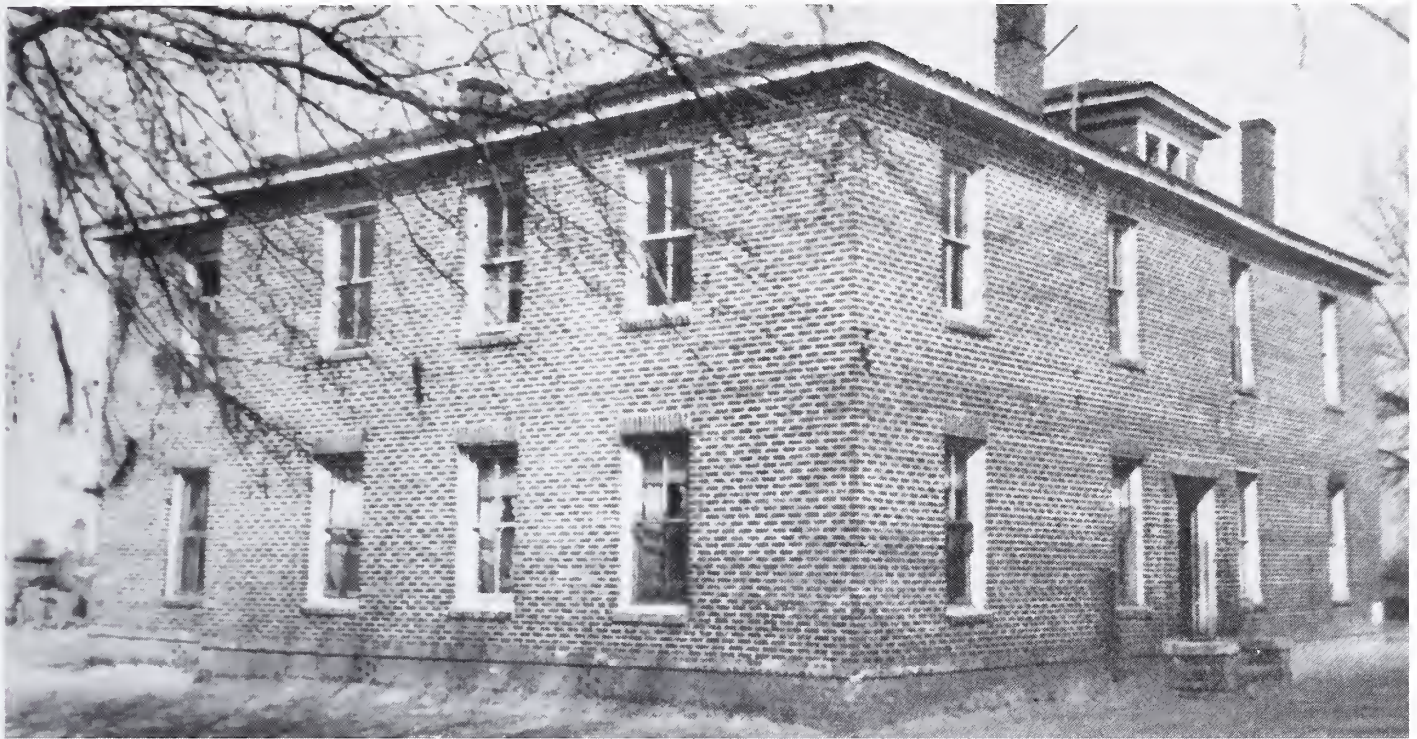
Academic Building, 1941.



President's home in 1947.



Legare Hall, women's dormitory.

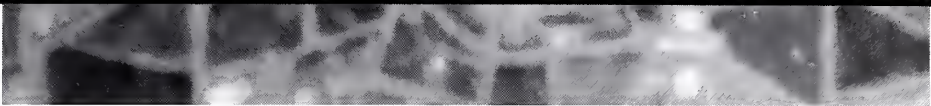


Dobbins-Keith Hall, 1937.



Campus cottage.





7

The Dr. Odell Reuben Years: Full Steam Ahead

Dr. O. R. Reuben 1948–1970.

In 1948, at the age of thirty, Odell Richardson Reuben became the seventh president of Morris College. He had joined the faculty a year earlier, bringing with him an outstanding record as a scholar and churchman. He would be the youngest President in the college's history.

Born to Lead

Dr. Reuben was a native of Newberry County and was the fourth of fourteen children born in a family which, although limited in material wealth, possessed the leadership and integrity that provided service in both church and community affairs. He was a magna cum laude graduate of Benedict College with the A.B. and B.D. degrees, and he earned the master of sacred theology from Oberlin University and earned the Ph.D. degree in religion from Duke University. Dr. Reuben was known as the first African-American to earn the doctorate of religion in Duke University's history. The Convention had selected a man of vision and commitment to a strong, unshakable belief in the hope and glory of Morris College.

Enrollment, Program Strength and Physical Plant

An improved academic program, strong faculty and staff and enlarged physical plant are testaments to the significant visible signs of Dr. Reuben's twenty-two year tenure as president of Morris College. His accomplishments were monumental in an era of post war apathy, the fall of segregation and the rise of civil rights. Together, he and his wife provided the on-campus nucleus which fortified the faculty, staff and students in the struggle to augment the foundation which had been laid by his predecessors. Dr. Anna Daniels Reuben served as professor, dean of student affairs and then academic dean for an additional ten years after the death of her husband.

When Dr. Reuben assumed the presidency, Morris College had an enrollment of 419 students. Records from the Admissions Office show a 1949 enrollment of 110 seniors, 113 juniors, 123 sophomores, 35 freshmen, 25 unclassified, and 13 theology students. By far the majority of those admitted displayed the determination to do successful work. They came primarily from within South Carolina, and the cost per year was \$209.50 for boarding students and \$159.00 for non-boarding students. In the 1960–1961 academic year, the enrollment had increased to a total enrollment of 898. The enrollment figure included the students from the regular academic term, theological studies, summer school and ministerial extensions.



Above: Student Government Officers, 1952. Seated, from left to right: Dorothy Crawford, Secretary; Leo Richardson, Arabella Hester, Alvin R. McKenzie and Inez Fowler. Standing, left to right: Thomas Brown, Helen Williams, Assistant Secretary; Ruth George and Oliver C. Sims, President.

Right: Miss Morris College, 1952. Left to right: Eunice E. Lindsay, Mary James and Beulah Gillard.



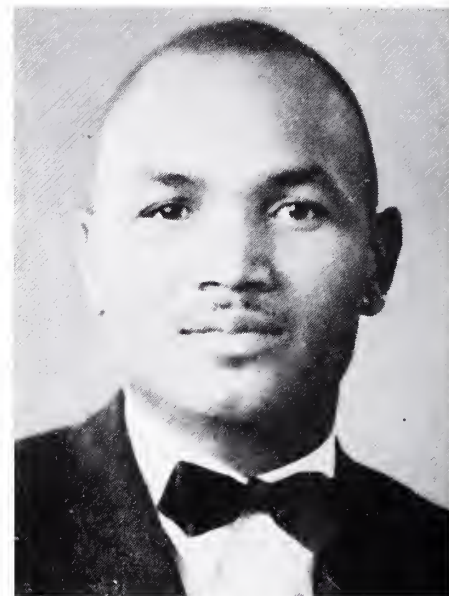
Miss Morris College and attendants, 1948. Left to right: Eloise Thurmond DeLane, second attendant; Ollie Simmons McAlister, Miss Morris College and Elizabeth Bannister Rogers, first attendant.



Dr. O. R. Reuben with graduating class of 1952.

Left: Mrs. Jessie Taylor, 1950.

Right: Greetings from the Board of Trustees, to the class of 1953. Reverend W. H. Neal. "True greatness will be measured by how well the class members play their parts in the development of the Social Order in the world of tomorrow."



Expanded Curriculum

President Reuben set about the task of upgrading the curriculum to prepare young men and women for the improving social and economic opportunities in post-World War II America.

A variety of new courses was offered as majors and minors in the four academic divisions—Education, Humanities, Social Sciences and Mathematics and Natural Sciences. In 1957–1958, Saturday classes were instituted for in-service teachers and others who met entrance requirements.



Banquet.



Dr. Arthenia Bates receiving award from Dr. Reuben.

A Series of Initiatives

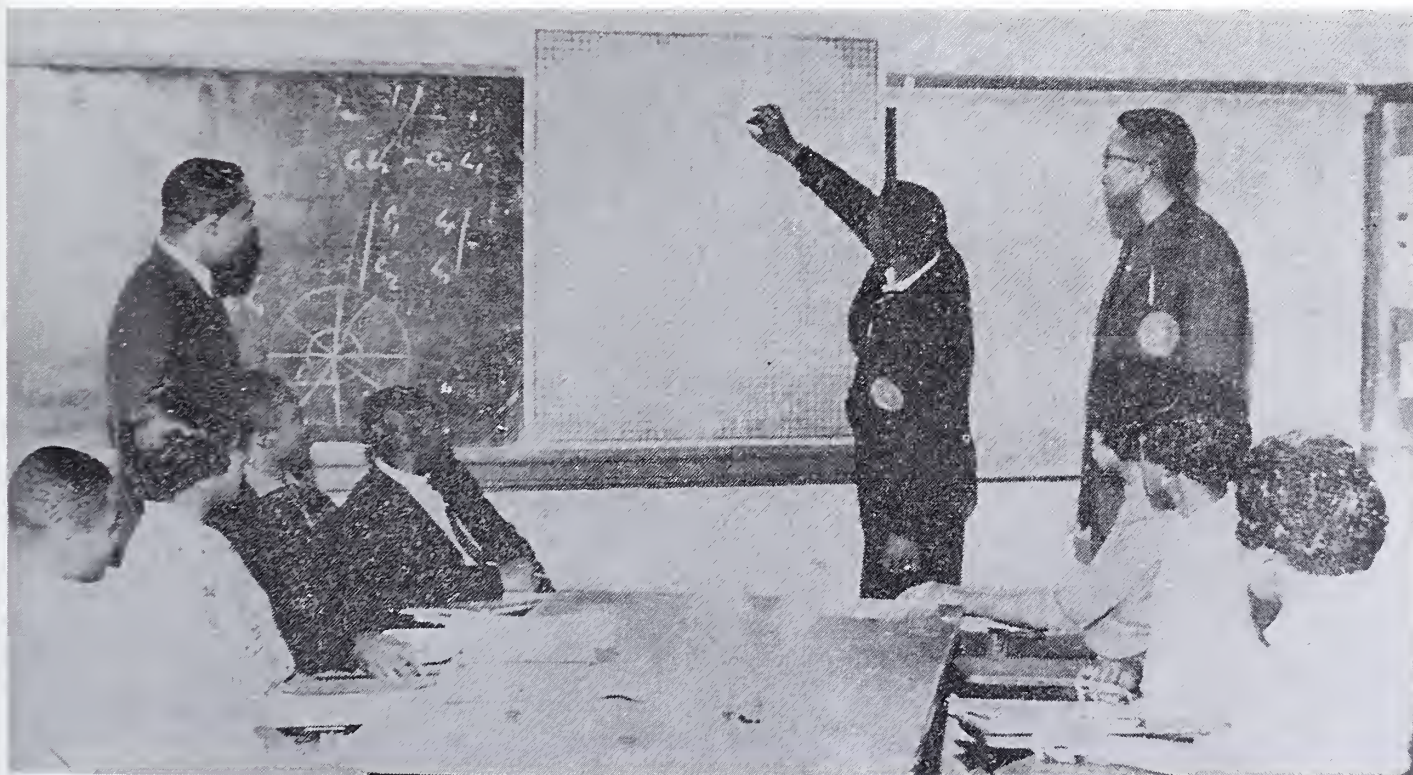
Dr. Reuben launched a program of financial assistance to faculty members for graduate and post-graduate study. Always a wonderfully diverse group, Morris professors consistently created a stimulating environment as a community of teachers and scholars. Dr. Reuben emphasized continuous faculty development. He cited in his annual report to the Board of Trustees that of the twenty-three faculty members, six had studied at institutions pursuing additional work beyond the master's level and completing the requirements on doctoral study. Mrs. Anna D. Reuben completed the doctoral program. Reverend E. M. Booker, Mrs. Eliza Black, Mrs. M. A. Lewis and Mr. L. E. Daniels did further study beyond the master's level.

During the Reuben years, the mission of the college was further refined to reflect the growing number of students arriving at its doors. Dr. Reuben wrote:

The college has instituted a rigid remedial program for incoming freshmen. Persons failing to make a specific norm are placed in sub-freshmen courses. Representatives from the State Department of Education have commended us on this program.

The initial groundwork for augmenting the underpreparation of African-American youth in the public school system was clearly demonstrated in the wisdom of introducing a program of remediation and enrichment.

A new Morris College began to emerge under President Reuben, who knew how to efficiently utilize the limited operational funds provided mostly by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina.



Typical classroom scene.



Reuben and visiting dignitary.

The Rise Of Extensions for the School of Religion

The Morris College School of Religion was blessed with the service and dedication of President Reuben, who was a staunch advocate for the intellectual training of ministers and Christian workers for churches of the state and nation. As a preacher of the gospel of Jesus Christ, he reached his highest fulfillment. By precept and example, his message was one of tolerance invigorated with warning that individuals and institutions must be reborn. In 1952–1953, the School of Religion established extensions in Bennettsville, Ridgeland, Sumter and Russellville. During 1954–1955, the college established an extension at Friendship Junior College in Rock Hill.

Movement to the Mainstream in Higher Education

The Morris College Board of Trustees made a major policy change in 1961 by deleting the word “Negro,” which appears in the original charter. This action opened all facilities and programs to all ethnic groups.

The First Step Toward Full Accreditation

During 1951–1952, the college was rated by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as the initial step toward securing the coveted regional accreditation. Almost a decade would pass before the pursuit for that regional acknowledgment would resume.

In 1962, President Reuben and his administrative team adopted the motto “Full Steam Ahead” as a governing policy toward full accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. The college was already accredited by the South Carolina State Department of Education and held membership in the Foundation for the Advancement of Small Colleges, the Triangle Association, the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, the American Association of Higher Education and numerous others. In 1969, Morris obtained the status of “Corresponding College,” an important step in the progress toward accreditation.

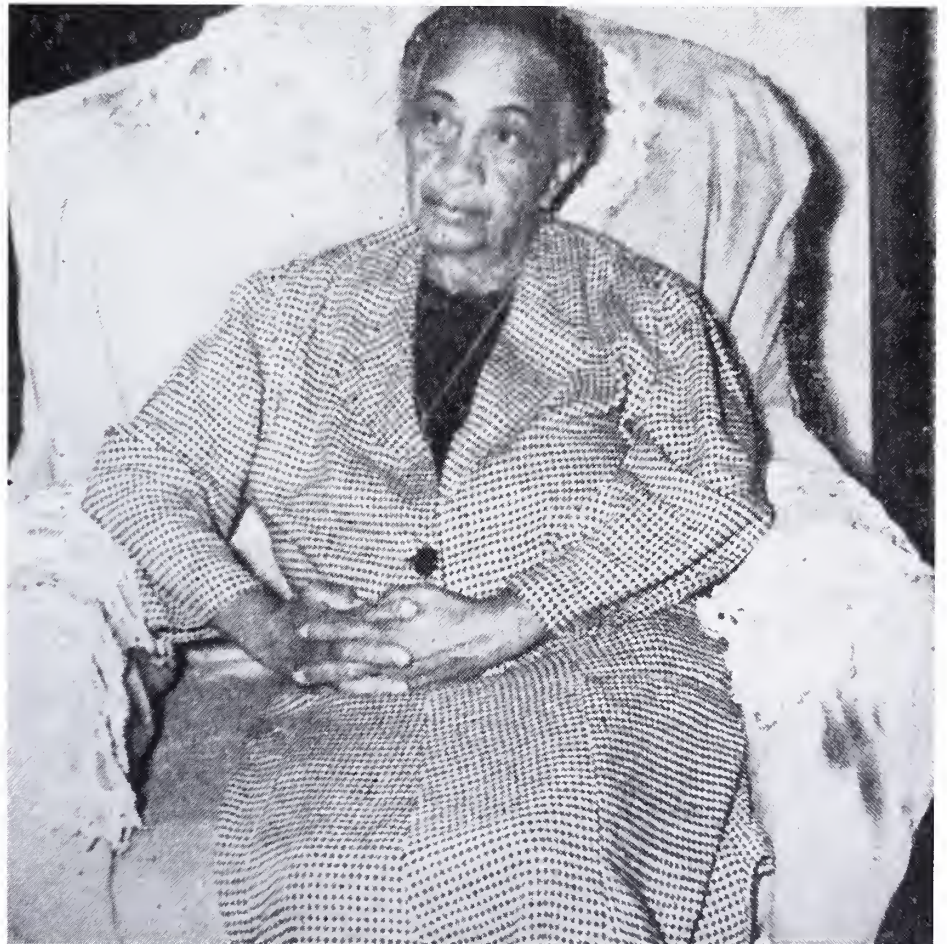
A beautiful gymnasium was erected in 1952. The gym is named for two former presidents of the school, Dr. J. P. Garrick and Dr. J. W. Boykin.





Above: Mable K. Howard Home Economics Building, 1961.

Right: Dr. Mable K. Howard.





Wilson-Booker Science Building.

Groundbreaking for the new
Dobbins-Keith Boys' dormitory.
Mrs. Mary Whitener (with shovel).



The Honorable Governor Robert E. McNair.



Daniel's Hall under construction.



Significant Physical Plant Development

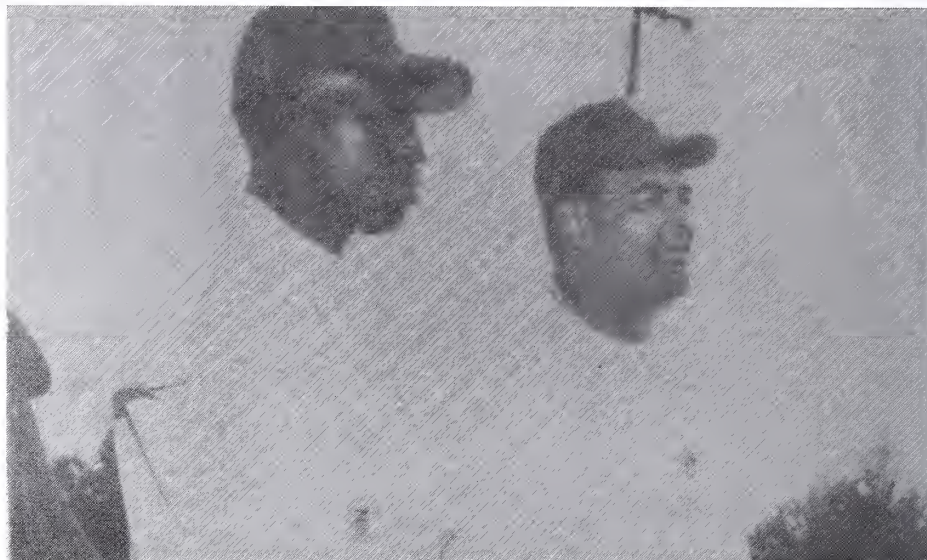
Tangible evidence of Dr. Reuben's successful administration was reflected in the physical plant expansion under his direction and leadership. The building program included the following new additions: the Student Center in 1950, the Garrick-Boykin Gymnasium and the H. H. Butler Building in 1952, the Mabel K. Howard Building in 1954, G. Goings Daniels Hall in 1964, Wilson-Booker Science Building and Dobbin-Keith-Whitener Hall in 1967. Other physical plant improvements were an athletic stadium and a fence around the forty-acre campus.

Overleaf: The Mighty Hornets, 1965.





Morris College coaches, 1963.
Leo Richardson, Head Coach and
Andrew E. Pollard, Assistant Coach.



Displaying Conference Trophies.
Left to right: Ronald Jones,
Co-Captain; Coach Andrew Pollard
and Rossie Keatson, Captain.



Baseball team, 1965.





Above: James Kenely, Co-Captain Morris College weight team.

Right: Dr. Marion W. McLester.

New Administrative Office

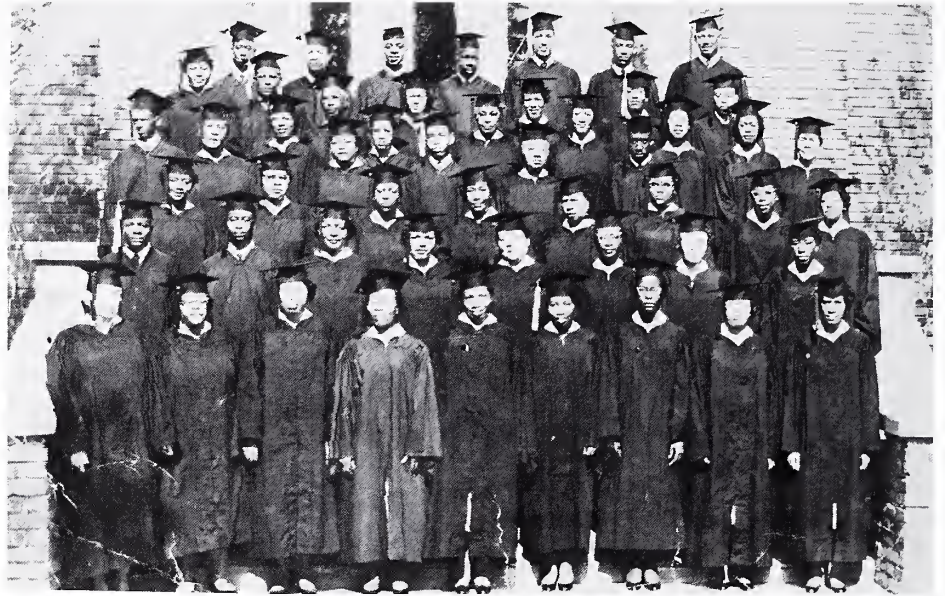
The Reuben years are also remembered for the establishment of offices for student financial aid and institutional development. Morris' endowment increased by more than a quarter of a million dollars. Students were able to receive assistance from federal programs which significantly impacted the enrollment levels during Dr. Reuben's tenure as follows: in 1960-1961 the National Defense Student Loan Program was made available, the College Work-Study Program was implemented and the Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant Program became a part of the financial aid package.



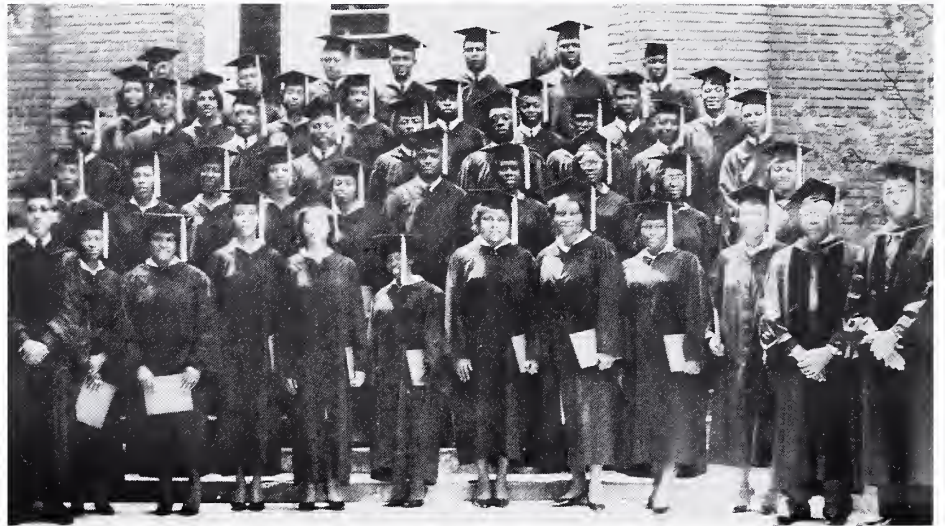
Strengthening Relationship Between Town and Gown

In community and civic affairs, Dr. Reuben was equally effective as an active Christian leader in human relations and social welfare activities. He worked with national, state and local government officials and with various civic and religious organizations to promote humanitarian concerns. He was secretary of the South Carolina Christian Action Council and held membership in the South Carolina Human Relations Council, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the American Academy of Political Science, Sumter City-County Planning Commission and the Odd Fellows and Masons.

Class of 1957.



Class of 1965.



Class of 1952, celebrating the twentieth reunion. Courtesy of the late Ethel Gibbs-Syndab's family, Ricky Syndab.





L-R: (seated on couch) Mrs. Anna Daniels Reuben; oldest daughter, Ruby; Dr. Odell R. Reuben, President; (seated on floor) daughter, Anna-Marie; son, Odell, Jr.; daughter, Lucy; (lower photo) twin daughters, Jane and Janice.



Dr. Reuben was strongly devoted to his wife and six children, and he gave himself and the fruit of his labor with deepest love, manly responsibility and unforgettable gentleness. One of the most impressive and significant growth periods in the history of Morris College ended with Dr. Reuben's death in October 1970.

Upon the death of President Reuben, the Board of Trustees appointed an interim committee to guide the institution through the remainder of the academic year.



8

The Henry E. Hardin Years and Interim Committees

Dr. H. E. Hardin, 1972-1973.

The next three years in the college's history would be turbulent and changing. The impact of student unrest, the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., the drama of desegregation and its accompanying issues created a rather precarious situation for the country and the college.

These conditions were present on the campus when Dr. Henry E. Hardin and the first interim committee were appointed to guide the institution. The Interim Committee was composed of Dr. Hardin as Chairman, Dr. W. L. Wilson, Dr. W. H. Neal, Dr. J. L. Brooks and Dr. Anna Reuben. The Interim Committee performed its duty as caretaker until May 1971. Shortly thereafter, the Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Hardin as Acting President of the college.

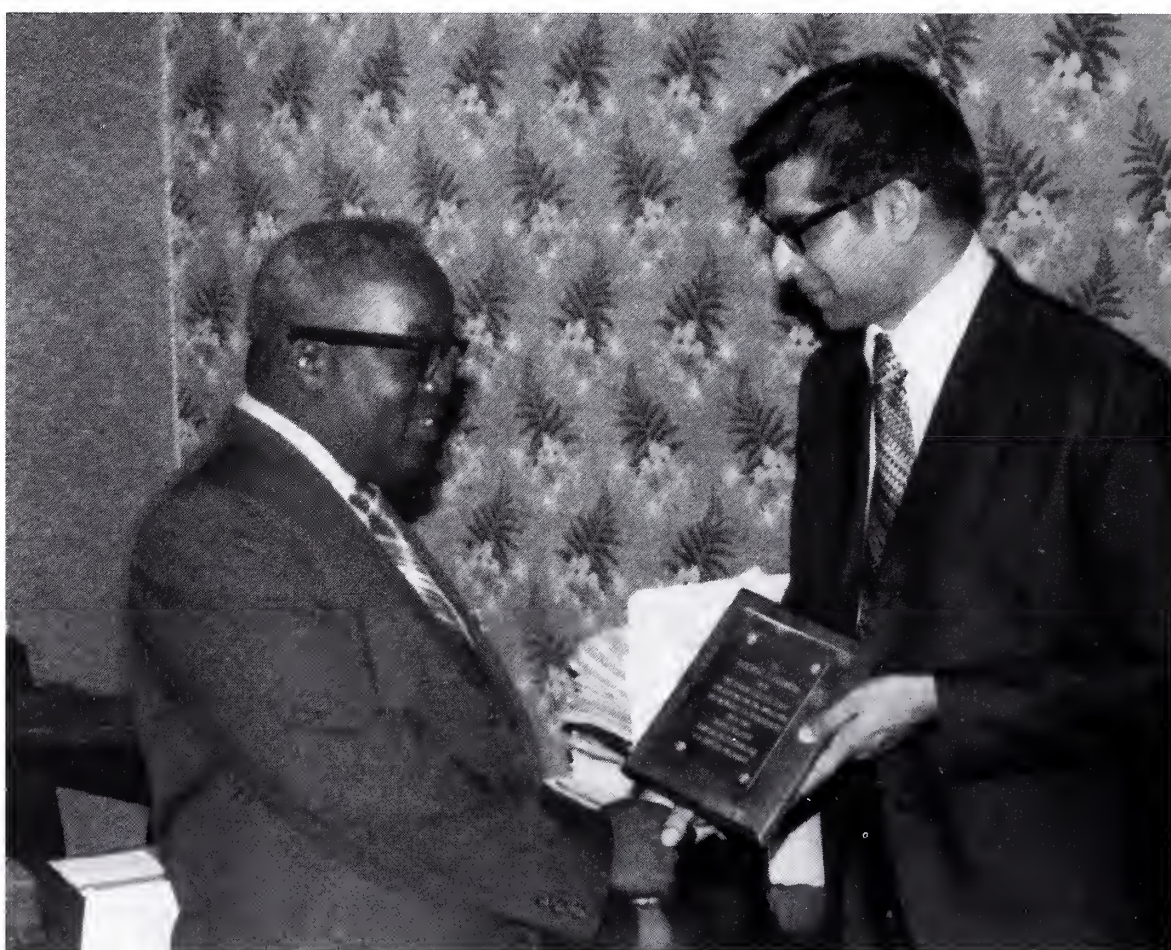
Dr. Hardin held the A.B. and B.D. degrees from Benedict College, the M.A. from New York University and the Doctor of Pedagogy (honorary) from Morris College. His experiences as an excellent Professor of religion, Dean of the School of Religion, and Acting Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, contributed greatly to his appointment to the Presidency in 1972.

During his tenure as president, Dr. Hardin maintained the decorum of the office he had accepted and sustained the mission of the college. Upon his resignation in 1973, the Board of Trustees appointed a second interim committee. The second Interim Committee consisted of Dr. Jessie W. Taylor as Chairperson, Dr. J. L. Brooks, and Reverend R. W. Stallings. During this period, Morris College instituted several programs designed to enrich and meet the educational needs of students. Some of these initiatives included the federally funded programs of Upward Bound and Special Services for Disadvantaged Students, a new Liberal Studies major, the Cooperative Education Program and Project Helping Hand.

The pursuit of accreditation was not lost from the Reuben years although changes in leadership created fiscal and programmatic instability. In December of 1973, Morris College became a candidate for accreditation by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS).



Dr. Henry E. Hardin, Administrative
Dean of Morris College (center).

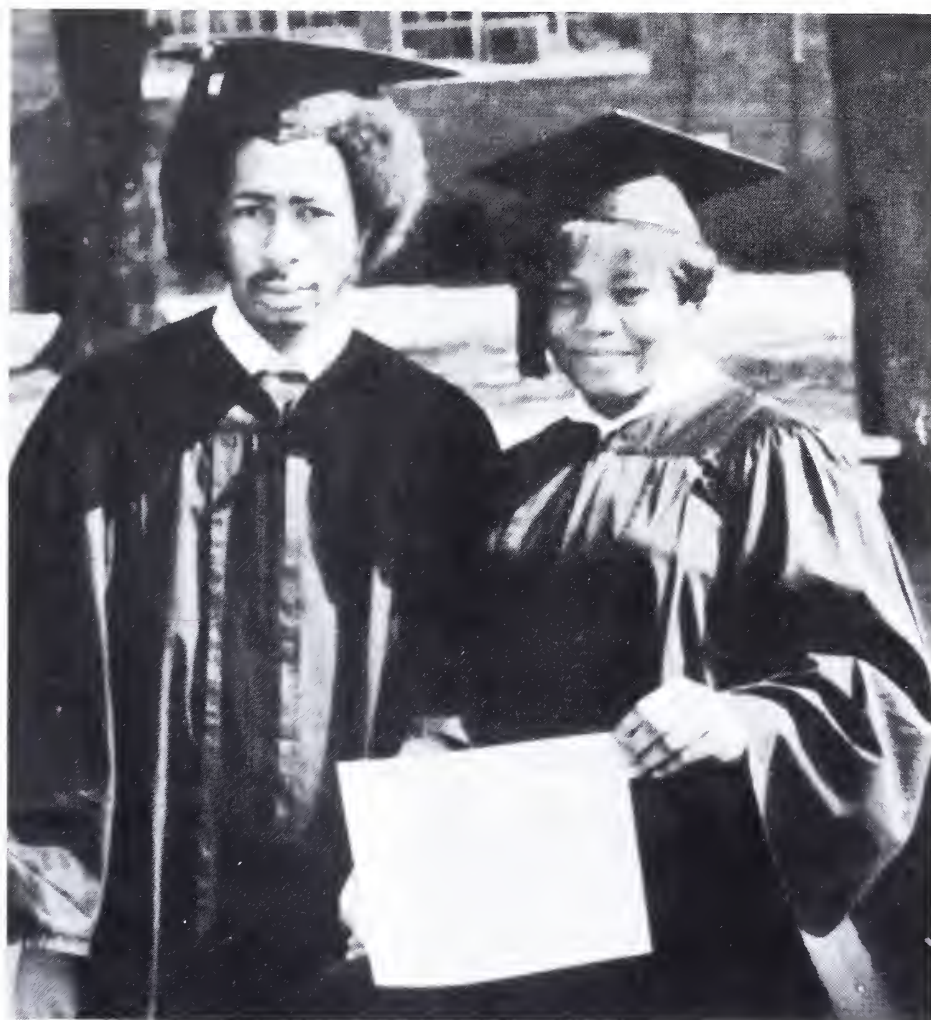


Dr. Hardin receiving award.

Freshman Orientation Week



Honor Students





9

The Richardson Years: Since 1974

Dr. Luns Richardson, 1974–1998.

The Emergence of Dr. Luns C. Richardson

Morris College was a troubled institution during the three years of the early 1970s following the passing of President Odell R. Reuben. In the midst of these troubled times, few realized that the college was about to enter an unprecedented golden age of growth and accomplishment under a new leader, Dr. Luns C. Richardson, who would serve the institution longer than any previous President.

Dr. Richardson was an ideal candidate to fill the leadership position at Morris. He had grown up within forty miles of the college in Hartsville, South Carolina and had graduated from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina, which like Morris was a small, private and historically-Black college, and which like Morris was affiliated with the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina. He had learned the principles of how to be a successful college president at Columbia University in New York where he earned the Master's degree in Higher Education Administration, and he learned the many practical elements of how to be a successful college President through a series of increasingly responsible administrative positions. These included fifteen years as Dean of Men, Director of Student Activities and faculty member at what is now Denmark Technical College in Bamberg County, South Carolina; six years at Benedict College in positions that included Associate Dean of the faculty, Dean of Admissions and Records and Acting President and one year at Voorhees College in Denmark, South Carolina as Executive Vice President, as well as a principal of St. Helena and Wilson High Schools.

In September 1973 while Dr. Richardson was serving at Voorhees College, the Morris Board of Trustees elected him as President which he accepted effective July 1, 1974 in order to fulfill his contractual commitment to Voorhees. However, the Morris community had immediate need for his guidance and leadership, and he agreed to visit the campus as a consultant on weekends in order to identify its problems and to develop strategies for solving these problems. Thus the Richardson years began in 1973 even though the Richardson presidency did not officially begin until the following year. In 1998, as Morris was celebrating ninety years of its history, so too was Luns Richardson marking the completion of a quarter century of service to the institution.

The success of that quarter century of service rests in part on the nature of his philosophy of higher education which he enunciated early on as follows:

I believe that higher education should be organized around and centered on students rather than upon academic subjects as is often emphasized by faculty or upon institutional administration as is often empha-

sized by college presidents. Our colleges and universities exist mainly to assist the youth in our society to find a better way in their sometimes difficult journey through life. Thus the college setting should not add to these difficulties by permitting irrelevant curricula, tolerating disinterested teaching or creating entrenched administrative bureaucracies that exist only for their own sake.



Above: Board of Trustees,
1975-1976.

Right: Dr. Anna Reuben presenting a
check from the Baptist Women to
Dr. Richardson.



The Challenge of Restoring Financial Stability

The most immediate challenge facing the new President as he assumed office in 1974 was to restore the college's financial stability. The institution had a cumulative deficit of over \$450,000 which represented monies owed to vendors for various supplies and services and monies owed to the Internal Revenue Service for withheld employee payroll taxes. Unless this deficit was soon eliminated, Morris would be in great danger of closing.

The President instituted a number of policies designed to eliminate non-essential expenditures while at the same time preserving the elements that are essential to an effective academic and student development program. He also rallied the college's Baptist constituency and its alumni to increase their contributions and the Sumter Business Community toward the goal of liquidating the deficit. By the end of the third year of his administration, the president was able to report that the entire deficit had been eliminated and that the college in fact had a cumulative surplus of almost \$120,000.

The goal of achieving financial stability and building greater institutional strength was pursued further during the Richardson years through aggressive development of an endowment fund. In 1974 after sixty-six years of operation, the college endowment fund stood at only \$30,000. Over the next twenty-five years, the college's endowment fund grew ninety-fold to \$2,800,000. Thus an important part of the Richardson legacy is not just eliminating a past deficit but also ensuring for successor presidents that there is at least some cushion against any future deficit.

The Challenge of Achieving Accreditation

Although restoring the college to financial stability was the most immediate challenge to the new president in the early years, the highest priority for the institution and its President was to achieve institutional accreditation from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

As the President reflected in his ten-year report titled *The Morris College Miracle, 1974-1984*:

I accepted election to the Presidency of Morris College only on the condition that the Board of Trustees would support an all-out effort to achieve accreditation as the institution's highest priority. The Board was unanimous in supporting this policy, as were the college's faculty, staff and student body, because everyone realized that the college could not fully carry out its mission and purpose in the future as a non-accredited institution.



Above: L-R: Addie Bowen, Anna D. Reuben, Luns Richardson, Beatrice Sanders, and Marion McLester in President's office, present a check to help support the needs of the college.



Right: Groundbreaking for the Learning Resource Center. Dr. Luns C. Richardson (with shovel) and Dr. Wescott Johnson, 1979.

By 1977 with the barrier of cumulative deficit overcome, the college was still far short of meeting another important criterion. As the president later wrote:

The biggest hurdle that the college had to overcome on its path to accreditation was the construction of an adequate facility for its Learning Resources Center. The solution to this problem would cost the college \$1,300,000, a capital expenditure that was more than twice as large as any previous capital expenditure in the college's history. In spite of the massiveness of this project, I did not hesitate for one minute to pursue it. The number one goal of the President and the Board of Trustees had been the accreditation of Morris College, and the principal means of achieving that goal was the construction of a new and larger Learning Resources Center.

On the critical issue of a new Learning Resources Center, the committee viewed the plans and specifications for such a facility and the documents that ver-

ified that the capital funds to complete the facility had been secured. With assurances that construction of the facility would begin very shortly, the visiting committee recommended Morris for accreditation, and the Commission on Colleges granted the accreditation in December 1978. Two years later, the L. C. Richardson-W. A. Johnson Learning Resources Center opened bearing the names of the President of the college and the President of the Baptist State Convention who had worked together so diligently to produce such remarkable results.

A few of the 1975-1976 strong, supportive staff:



Mr. E. Thompson, Field Coordinator,
Division of Education.



Mr. Matthew Ramsey,
Division of Education.



Dr. Eliza E. Black,
Dean of Student Affairs.



Reverend R. W. Stalling,
Director of Church Relations.



Above: Sister Marie Donovan,
Division of Humanities.



Right: Reverend L. W. Williams,
Instructor in the School of Religion.

As a result of the pragmatic and diligent efforts of the Morris College constituents, the college was able successfully to reaffirm in accordance with requirements of the Commission on Colleges, first in 1983 and again in 1993.

Building the College's Enrollment

When Dr. Richardson initiated his Presidency in the summer of 1974, the college had enrolled only 242 students during the preceding fall semester.

Regardless of what an accreditation committee might think, the President and the Board of Trustees agreed that increasing enrollment should be one of the institution's immediate goals. By the time that the accreditation committee arrived four years later, enrollment had grown to 691 students. In the 1997 fall semester, a record 971 students were enrolled at the College reflecting an increase of 182 percent over the 1973 fall enrollment.

Building the Academic Program

In 1974 the college had nine major academic programs in which students could enroll in order to earn a bachelor's degree. These programs were Biology, Business Administration, Elementary Education, English, History, Liberal Studies, Mathematics, Religious Education and Social Studies. The three most popular programs and the percentage of students enrolled in each of them were Social Studies (23 percent), Elementary Education (22 percent) and Business Administration (11 percent). Clearly the career goals of the majority of students were directed toward the social services and public school teaching.

As career opportunities for African-Americans began to expand during the 70s, 80s, and 90s, so too did the curriculum at Morris College expand to assist students. A major program in general business administration became more spe-

Carolyn Frazier, David Weeks and
Cassandra Johnson (Yearbook staff).



NAACP Club.



Baseball team, 1985-1986.



cialized to include minor programs in Accounting, Computer Information Science, Management, Marketing and Office Administration. By 1978 the Business Administration program had become the number one academic program in student enrollment and has remained in that position down to the present time. By 1981, the growth of that program was further reflected in its separation administratively from the Division of Social Sciences and Business and the creation of a separate Division of Business Administration.

Then, career opportunities for minorities in the various fields led to the creation of new major programs in Broadcast Media and in Journalism, and new opportunities to enter law schools led to creating a variation of the



Mr. Joseph Richie, Media Coordinator and a student.



Religious Emphasis week. Left to right: Dr. H. E. Hardin, Dr. Luns C. Richardson and Dr. Charles Adams.

existing History Program which combined Political Science and History with an emphasis on pre-law studies, to the creation of new major programs in Criminal Justice, Early Childhood Education, Health Science, Recreation Administration and Sociology.

Two additional academic programs grew out of the results of the 1993 reaffirmation of accreditation review. The college's separate and non-accredited School of Religion established in 1948 had been awarding bachelor's degrees in theology and in divinity. To ensure its own continued accreditation, it would be necessary for the School of Religion to become either totally separate from

the college or transfer its degree programs to Morris College and dissolve its separate existence.

The Board of Trustees agreed to dissolving the School of Religion. The college reconstructed a single new program in Pastoral Ministry, and the college's former program in Religious Education was transformed into a program in Christian Education. The two new degrees were assigned administratively to the Division of Humanities which now became the Division of Religion and Humanities. The non-credit Certificate Program for ministers that the School of Religion had operated was also taken over by the college and operated as a public service unit of the college. In 1996 after forty-eight years of operation as an affiliated organization of Morris College, the School of Religion was officially closed.

The last major academic program created at the college was also established in 1996 designated as Organizational Management. It was established as a special program for adult students age twenty-five and older

Morris College Color Guard in Thanksgiving Day Parade, 1986.





Groundbreaking for the Fine Arts Facility, 1979.

Durham Ministerial Alliance.



Thanksgiving rally.



Faculty welcoming student to college; Janet Clayton, Margaret Davis and Dr. Richard Smith.



SGA cabinet, 1983.



Science in Action week.



WQMC-AM staff, celebrate the station's fourth anniversary. (L-R) Samuel Lewis, Program Director; Ameache Epps, Community Affairs, Announcer; Janet Clayton, General Manager; Willette Stocker, Music Director, Announcer.



Tatsha Robertson,
Miss Morris College.



SGA Officers. Left to right: Gregory
Dingle, Fred Prince and Tatsha Robertson.

Commissioning of students.



Program Leadership.



Grads awaiting the ceremony.



who had completed two years of college, were already in the work force and wished to complete the requirements for a bachelor's degree. Through concentrated study in evening and weekend classes extending over an eighteen-month period, such students could earn a bachelor's degree. By 1997, the evening program had a total of eighty-five students enrolled.

The Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) was brought to Morris College in 1985 to introduce students to the opportunity for careers in the military service as well as to provide increased forms of financial aid available from the Department of Defense. Between 1985 and 1997, some thirty-nine of the college's graduates completed ROTC training and received commissions as second lieutenants in the United States Army.

Another major action to build the academic program took place in 1987 with the creation of a new academic division called the Division of General Studies. This new division took over from the other academic divisions the responsibility for organizing and administering under one division the program of courses in English, mathematics, history, science and reading that were generally required of all freshman students. As the college's catalog for that year indicated, the division "is designed to provide a special academic environment for entering freshmen that will promote a success in mastering course offerings in general education." This change was a further reflection of the president's previously stated philosophy "that higher education should be organized around and centered on students rather than upon academic subjects."

At the beginning of the Richardson era, the college had forty-one faculty members of whom twenty-nine percent held earned doctorate degrees. By 1997 the college had seventy faculty members of whom sixty-three percent held earned doctorate degrees. Much of the work of building this faculty fell to the academic dean who also functioned as second in executive authority to the president. During the early part of the Richardson era, this position was held by Dr. Anna D. Reuben, wife of former President Odell R. Reuben. With the untimely death of Dean Reuben prior to the 1982-1983 academic year, Mr. Lester T. Corley served as Acting Dean. The position of Academic Dean was eventually filled in 1984 by Dr. Mary A. Vereen-Gordon who continues to hold the position during 1997-1998.



Dr. Mary Vereen-Gordon, Dean of Academic Affairs.

Building the Student Development Program

At the beginning of the Richardson era, the Counseling Office operated with one professional counselor and today there are two professional counselors. The Career Planning and Placement Office originally had only one professional career counselor and no Cooperative Education Program. A small Cooperative Education Program was begun during the 1970s and was greatly expanded after 1991 when the college received the largest foundation grant in its history, \$250,000 from The Teagle Foundation, to enlarge the Cooperative Education Program and to employ a full-time program coordinator.

Student life at Morris has expanded during the Richardson years through the emergence of Greek-letter organizations on the campus which now include four fraternities and four sororities. Cultural activities have enhanced assemblies, affording the student body more opportunities for growth and development in understanding diverse cultures, the arts and religious orientation.

The number of clubs has more than doubled to include such specialized groups as the National Student Business League, the Astronomy Club, the Chess Club and the Fencing Club. In terms of intercollegiate athletic teams, the

"Lifting as they Climb"

Fraternities and Sororities receiving pillows. Left to right: Iota Zeta Chapter-Phi Beta Sigma; Pi Theta Chapter-Zeta Phi Beta; Nu Gamma Chapter-Alfa Kappa Alpha and Lambda Epsilon Chapter-Kappa Alpha Psi.



Xi Rho Chapter, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.



Under the leadership of Lester T. Corley, Advisor (back row, second from left); Xi Epsilon Chapter-Alfa Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.



Epsilon Lambda Chapter-Omega Psi Phi Fraternity with Representative Theo Mitchell, third on left. (Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc., not pictured)

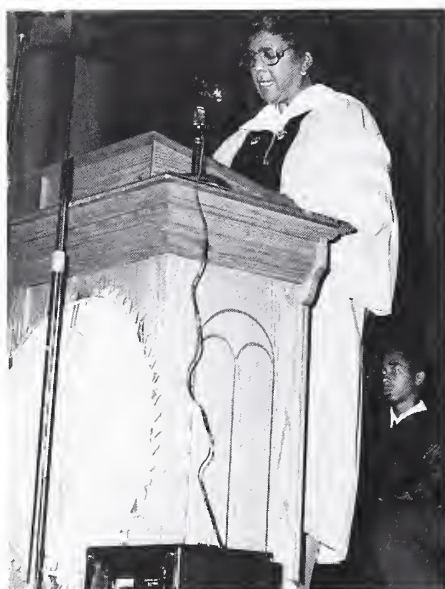


Morris College & the Black Executive Exchange Program "BEEP", 1992.



Ms. Margaret Bailey, Director of Career Planning, Cooperative Education and Placement, registers a student for a seminar.





Honors Programs and Dr. P. T. Williams, Honor Society speaker.



Alpha Kappa Mu, Mu Lambda Chapter Inductees, 1988. Left to right: Eric Lanier, Gregory Dingle, Rae Grant, Zyretta McBeth, Meocha Calvin, Donna Prioleau and Romalita Baker.



Morris College Hornets, 1976.

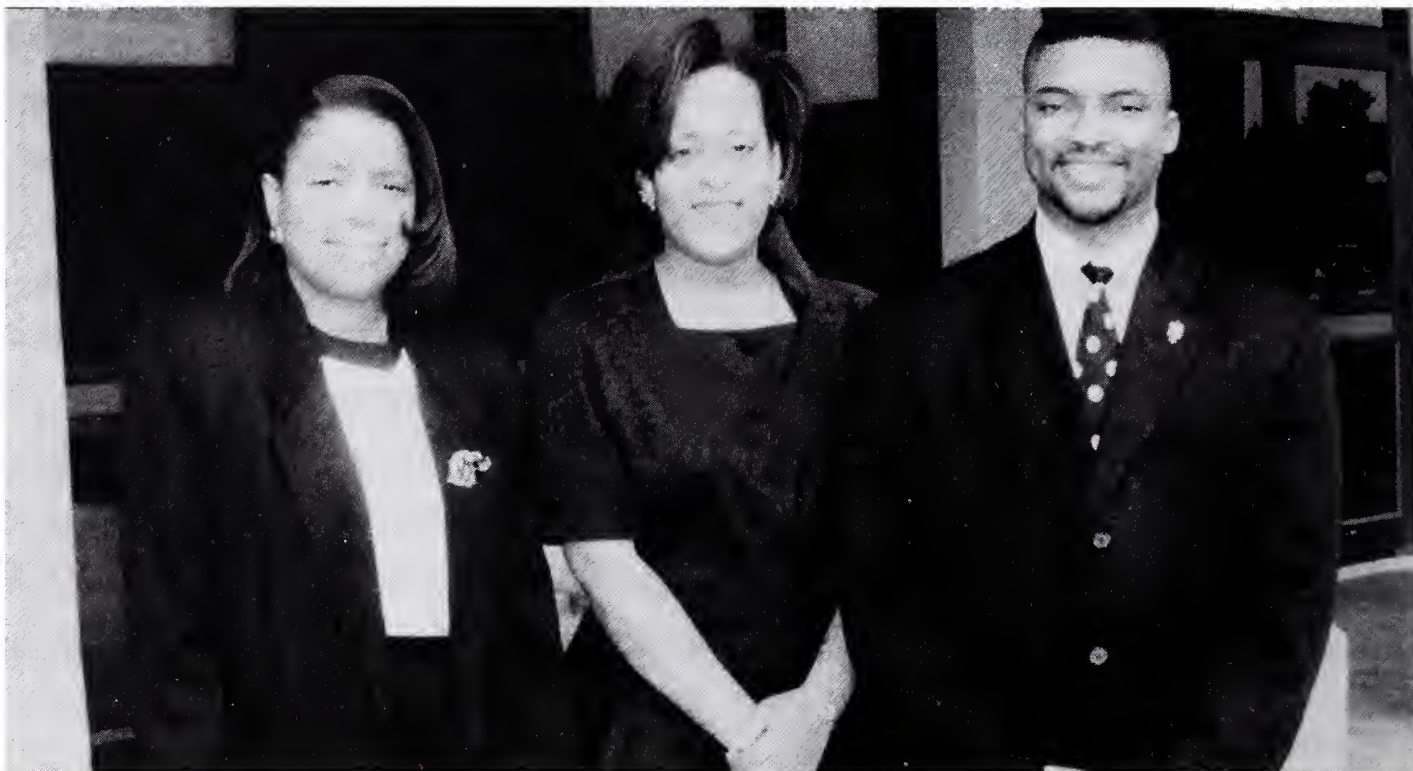


Girl's basketball team, 1982-1983.



EIAC baseball champions.

early 1970s saw Morris maintaining only male intercollegiate teams in basketball, baseball and track. By 1997 under the impact of the Federal Title IX requirements on gender equity in college athletics, the college was maintaining women's teams in basketball, softball, volleyball and track, and it also established men's and women's cross-country teams.



Dr. Marion Sanford, Dean of Students, NiCole Williams, "Miss Morris College" 1997-1998 and Reverend Leonard Griffin, SGA President, 1997-1998.

For most of the years of the Richardson era, the student development program operated under the leadership and supervision of Dr. Eliza E. Black as Dean of Student Affairs. With her retirement from the college in 1995, the position was filled by Dr. Marion R. Sanford who continues in that position in 1997-1998.

Building Campus Facilities

Another remarkable achievement of the Richardson era is that the college added 210,875 square feet of newly constructed facilities to a campus that contained only 154,369 square feet of facilities at the beginning of the era. Thus Dr. Richardson did not merely expand the Morris College campus; he in fact built a new campus using the same previous site.

The facilities that were newly constructed during the Richardson years, the purposes served by those facilities, the dates when they opened and the area of each new facility are shown below.

L. C. Richardson-W. A. Johnson Learning Resources Center contains the college's Library and Media Center (1980) - 34,343 square feet

W. H. Neal-Iola Jones Fine Arts Center contains an auditorium and instructional facilities for programs in art, music and theater (1980) - 19,296 square feet

Security Office houses on-duty security officers at the front gate to the campus (1983) - 256 square feet

Anna D. Reuben, Mamie Coker, Magnolia Lewis, Albertha Simmons Hall is a residence hall for women (1984) - 30,000 square feet

The President's Home (1986) - 4,200 square feet

Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center provides facilities for physical education classes, social and cultural activities, special events, recreation administration classes and athletic events (1991) - 22,000 square feet

J. O. Rich, S. C. Cureton, Ed F. Johnson Hall is a residence hall for men (1993) - 25,000 square feet

Graphic Center contains campus printing facilities and additional administrative offices (1994) - 2,500 square feet

O. R. Reuben Chapel and Religious Center (1996) - 13,100 square feet

New women's residence hall (1998) - 45,000 square feet

Student Center (1998) - 15,180 square feet

Groundbreaking for President's new residence.



Groundbreaking for A.M.M.A. Hall Women's Dormitory. Left to right: Mr. Thomas Moss, Dr. Beatrice Sanders, Dr. Marion McLester, Dr. Sylvia Swinton and Mr. Kenny Rose.



A.M.M.A. Hall





Aerial view of recently completed
O.R. Reuben Chapel.

"Original" Garrick-Boykin
Gymnasium.



Garrick-Boykin gymnasium after
hurricane Hugo destroyed it, 1989.



Garrick-Boykin Human
Development Center.



Total Area of New Facilities Added in the Richardson Era = 210,875 square feet

In 1989 the college's facilities suffered considerable damage as a result of Hurricane Hugo. The Garrick-Boykin Gymnasium built in 1952 was destroyed but was rebuilt and is the new Garrick-Boykin Human Development Center. The Academic Building which had been built in 1925 suffered severe damage and was renovated into a modern academic facility.

Another facility that was completely renovated was Brawley-Starks Hall which had not suffered any storm damage but was no longer needed as a men's residence hall. The college elected to renovate this structure for use as an Academic Development Center to house the Division of General Studies, the Student Support Services Program, the Career Planning and Cooperative Education Program and a special computerized learning laboratory scheduled for a 1998 fall opening.

Brawley-Starks Hall before renovation.



Newly renovated Brawley-Starks Academic Success Center.



A Few of the Many Memorable Moments



Dr. Benjamin Mays,
Educator and Historian.



Dr. Henry Ponder, College President.

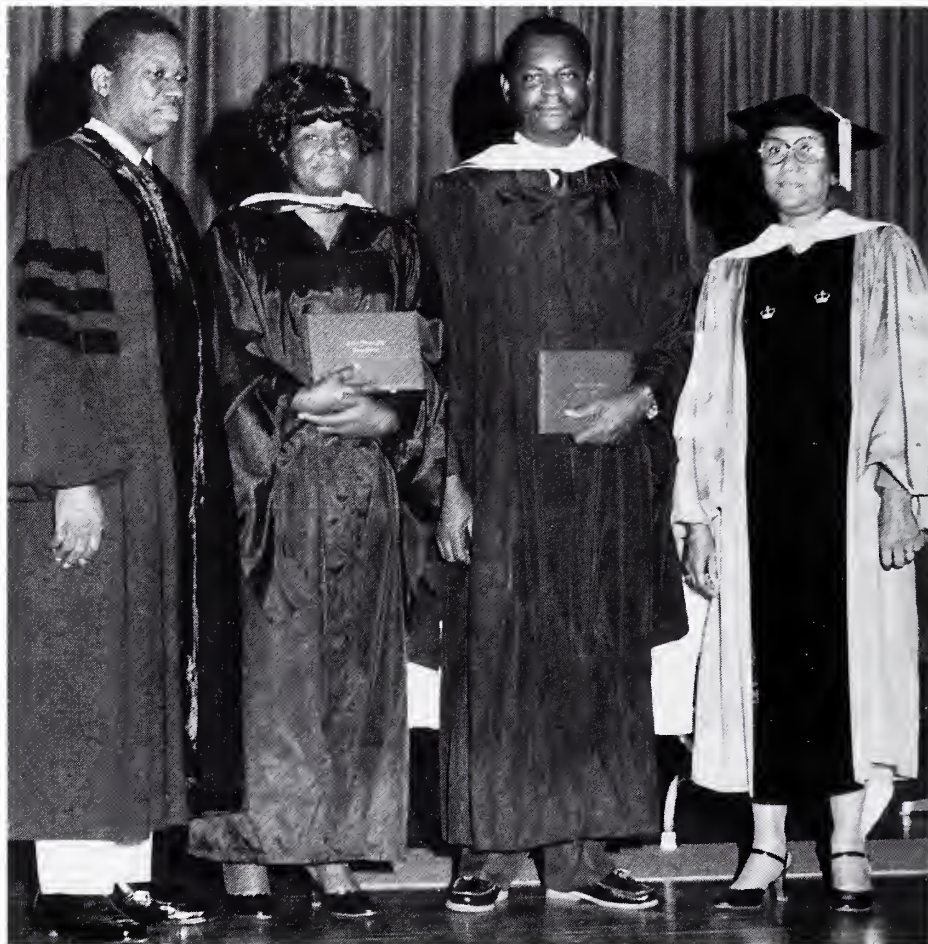


Dr. W. H. Neal, Chairman Emeritus.



Dr. Ronald McNair, Astronaut.

Luns Richardson, Eliza Black,
Bobby Brisbon and Anna D.
Reuben.



Dr. Richardson, Major General
Henry Doctor, Jr. and student.

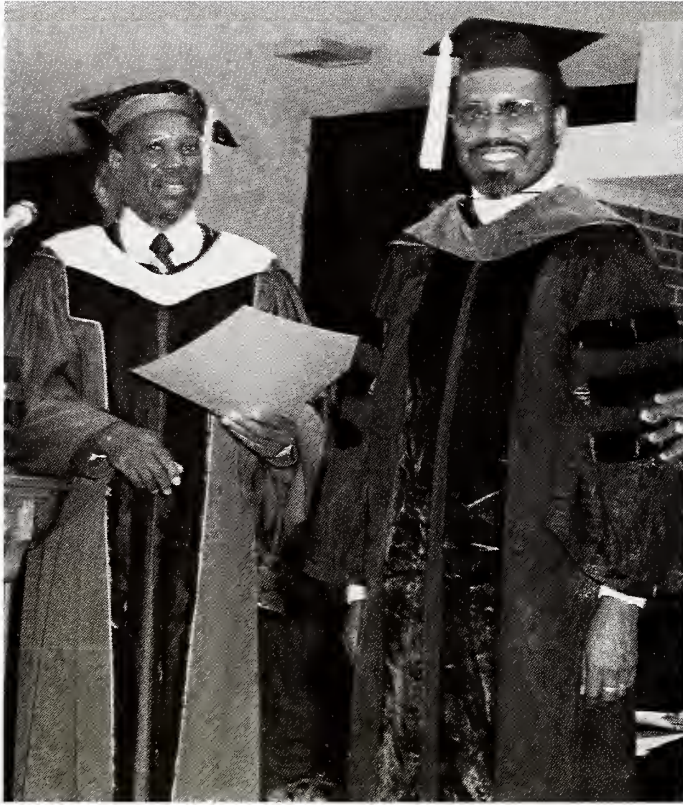
The Honorable Matthew J. Perry, Jr.,
Civil Rights leader and Attorney.



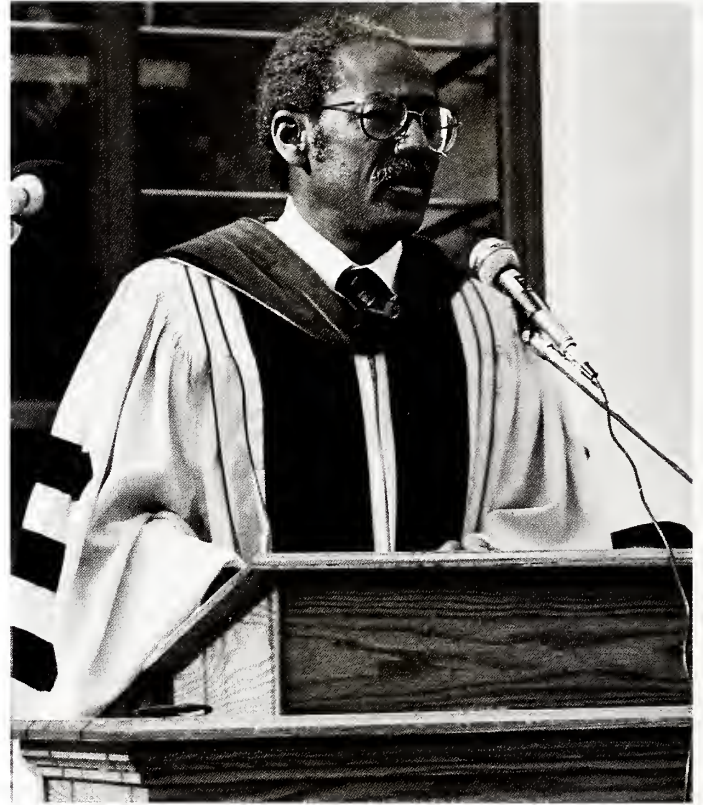
Belinda Randolph, 1983 SGA
President, with then Governor
Dick Riley.



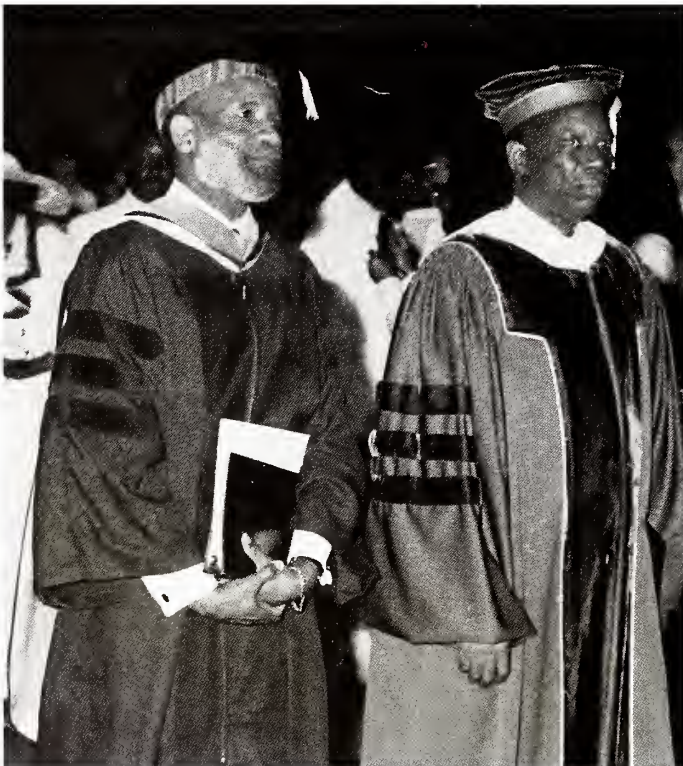
Dr. Mary Frances Berry.



Dr. Charles Adams,
National Baptist leader.



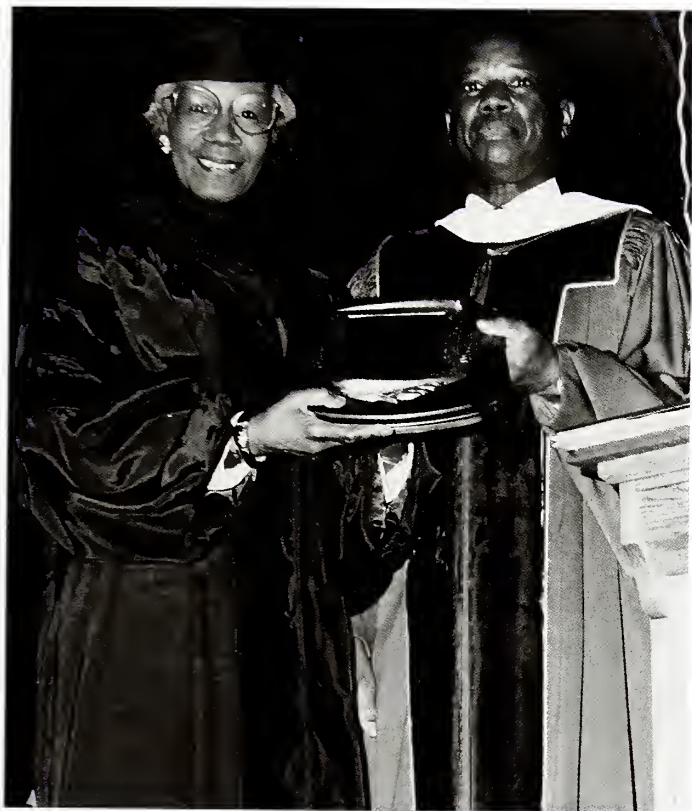
Dr. J. O. Rich,
Convention President.



Dr. Lerone Bennett,
Historian.



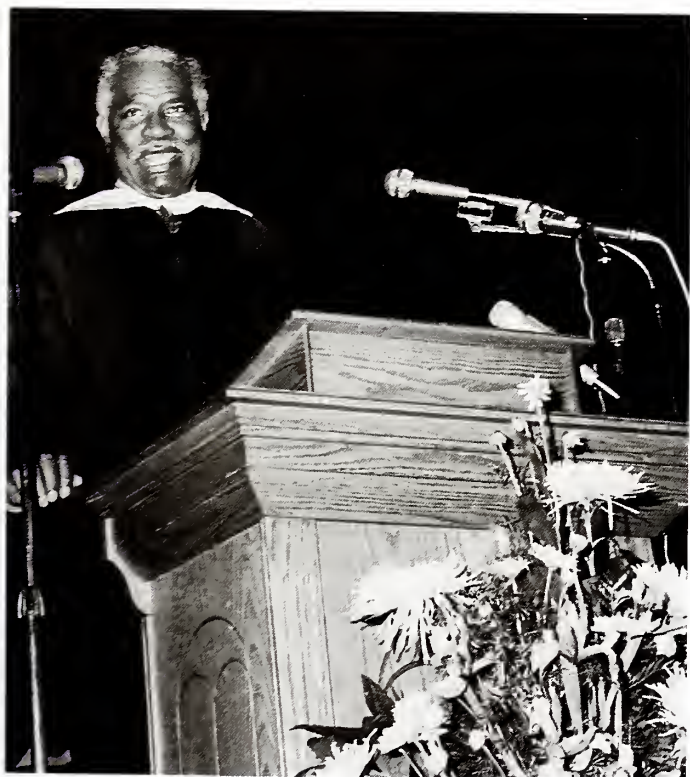
Dr. Bennett with Dr. Beatrice Sanders,
Professor Emeritus.



Drs. Shirley Chisholm, United States Congresswoman and Dr. Richardson.



Dr. Rosa Riley, Educator.



Dr. Ossie Davis, Actor/Playwriter.



Dr. C. Mackey Daniels, Trustee.



Dr. S. C. Cureton,
Convention President.



Dr. Earl Vaughn, School District
No. 17 Administrator.



Mayor Maynard Jackson,
Atlanta, Georgia and Trustee.



Dr. Joycelyn Elders,
former U.S. Surgeon General.



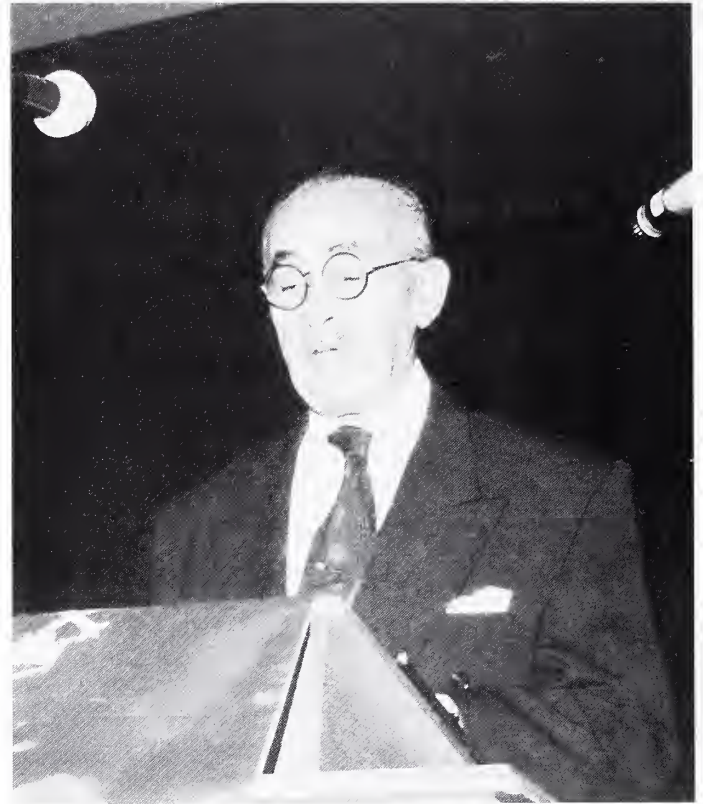
Dr. Patricia Russell-McLeod,
Attorney and Orator.



Drs. W. A. Johnson, L. C. Richardson
and Reverend James Blassingame.



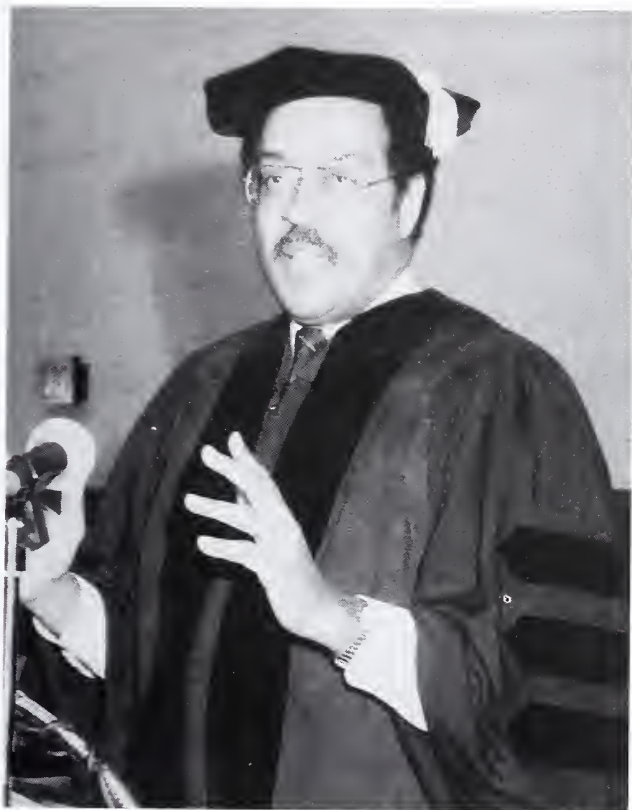
Dr. John D. Marshall,
Philanthropist/Broadcast Mogul.



Dr. Wyatt Tee Walker,
Senior Pastor of Cannan Baptist Church of Christ.



Senator Strom Thurmond,
Reverend Isaiah Harvey and Dr. Wescott Johnson.



Dr. William H. Gray III, Former United States Congressman, President and Chief Officer of UNCF.



Chief Justice Ernest A. Finney, Jr.,
The South Carolina Supreme Court.



Reverend Jesse Jackson, 1982 and 1994
Commencement Speaker.



Dr. Richardson, Queen Spann,
Director of Admissions and
Records and a "Happy Graduate,"
Ernestine Johnson.



10

The College and its Influential Baptist Constituency

Morris College Board of Trustees
1997-1998.

The history of Morris College is not complete without reflecting on the significant role that the Baptist constituency has played in the college's overall development. The 1,700 Black Baptist churches that comprise the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina have maintained a loyal and supportive relationship with the college through its steep climb and rise to a premier small, private college.

The efforts of these supportive churches during the annual Thanksgiving Rally and the annual mid-Winter Banquet have not only been an increasing source of direct funds but have also given the college a visibility that attracts prospective students to enroll, that attracts prospective donors from outside of the Baptist constituency to give and that creates a positive image of the college throughout the state.



Thanksgiving Rally.

Presidents of the Baptist Education
and Missionary Convention

Dr. I. P. Brockington
Dr. G. W. Raiford
Dr. J. J. Durham
Dr. J. S. Earl
Dr. H. H. Butler
Dr. G. G. Daniels

Dr. W. L. Wilson
Dr. W. A. Johnson
Dr. J. O. Rich
Dr. S. C. Cureton
Dr. Ed F. Johnson
Dr. W. E. Givens



Dr. W. E. Givens.

The companion to the Baptist E and M Convention has been through the years the Woman's Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention. From its founding in Zion Baptist Church on April 11, 1888, the organization has emphasized its Christian ethic and support of education. The Woman's Baptist E and M Convention has provided substantial financial support for education and mission. In 1888, the convention presented an annual financial report of \$68.59 while today it contributes over \$100,000 to its primary cause—Morris College. Among the major accomplishments of the Woman's Convention from its birth to now have been as follows:

- Erection of four major buildings on the Morris College campus
- Organization of a Junior Convention and the Young Woman's Auxiliary
- Establishment of Camp Julia A. Starks as a summer camp for children



Campers.

Presidents of the Woman's
Convention

Mrs. Fannie Davis
Mrs. M. J. Rayon
Mrs. R. E. Robinson
Mrs. Cora S. Boykin
Mrs. Connie Jones
Dr. Mabel K. Howard

Dr. Mary C. Whitener
Dr. Iola Jones
Dr. Anna Reuben
Dr. Mamie Coker
Dr. Arabella Rich

Visiting African Delegation, Kenyan
Pastors visit Morris.



Dr. Arabella Rich and
Dr. Mamie Coker.



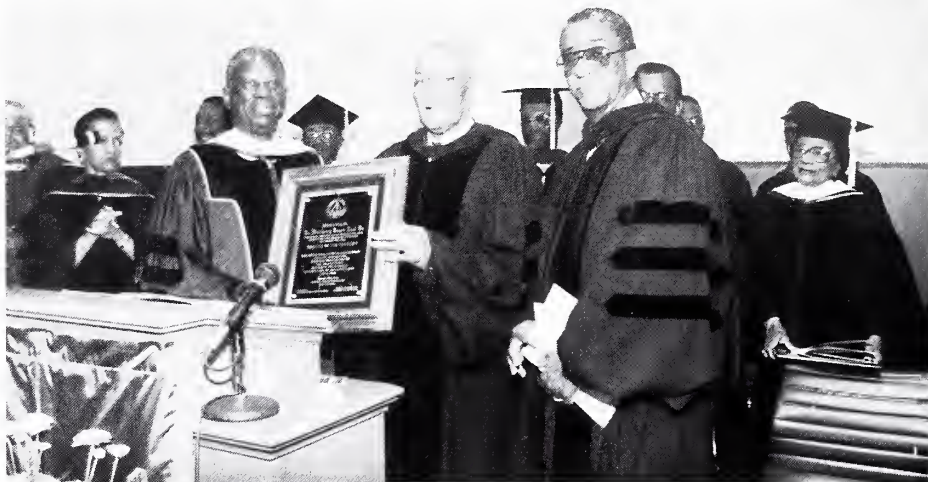
The many contributions cannot be minimized and the accompanying influence that the Woman's Convention has brought to the growth, expansion and financial stability to the college.

The State Baptist Convention also continually cements its relationship to the college through the annual requirement that the Convention elect the majority of members on the college's Board of Trustees. Some of these trustees are prominent in church circles outside of South Carolina and in turn play a role in bringing national support and recognition to the college.

Surely the single most prominent trustee through almost six decades has been Dr. W. H. Neal of Columbia, South Carolina who has served as a trustee continuously since 1940 and who served as Chairman of the Board from 1952 until 1985 when he accepted appointment as Trustee Emeritus. In 1997 he was designated as "Trustee of the Century," and in 1998 he is completing his fifty-eighth year as a member of the Board.

Following Dr. Neal's retirement from the position of Chairman of the Board, his successor was Dr. W. A. Johnson of Georgetown, South Carolina who had formerly served as President of the Baptist State Convention and then served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1985 to 1993. He was in turn succeeded by Dr. A. R. Blake of Charleston, South Carolina who is still serving.

Left to right: Dr. Luns C. Richardson, Morris College President, Dr. W. H. Neal, honored as "Trustee of the Century," and Dr. A. R. Blake, standing Board Chairman.



Left to right: Dr. Wescott Johnson, Dr. Ed F. Johnson and Dr. Luns C. Richardson



Chairmen of the Board of Trustees

Dr. J. W. Boykin
Dr. W. H. Neal

Dr. W. A. Johnson
Dr. A. R. Blake



Above: Student center
(artist's rendition).

Right: New Student Center under construction. A new student center, costing \$1,621,893 and financed partially with UNCF Campaign 2000 funds, will be dedicated and named in honor of Dr. Willie E. Givens, Jr., pastor of First Missionary Baptist Church, Summerville, and President of the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina; Dr. Alphonso R. Blake, pastor of Morris Street Baptist Church, Charleston, and chairman of the Morris College Board of Trustees; Dr. Arabella Hester Rich, president of the Woman's Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina; and Dr. Pauline Winston Thompson, Anderson County educator and prominent Baptist churchwoman.





Above New woman's dorm
(artist's rendition).

Right: A new women's residence hall costing \$3,588,106 and accommodating 224 students, will be dedicated and named in honor of Dr. Charles G. Adams, pastor of Hartford Memorial Baptist Church, Detroit, MI, and member of the Morris College Board of Trustees; Dr. C. Mackey Daniels, pastor of West Chestnut Street Baptist Church, Louisville, KY, and secretary of the Morris College Board of Trustees; the late Dr. Marian Woodward Wright McLester, noted Sumter County educator and Baptist churchwoman; and Dr. Beatrice Gregg Sanders, retired Morris College professor and former treasurer of the Woman's Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina.



11

A New Mission Statement for the Twenty-first Century

As the college engaged in its regular planning cycle to prepare for the 1996–1997 academic year, some research was initiated on the college's mission statement which revealed that it had not really changed much over many decades. Out of this planning cycle came the conclusion that the college's basic mission was still very much what it has been since it had become a four-year college. However, there was general agreement that the statement of that mission might be better worded as the college prepares to enter the twenty-first century and to move on to its 100th anniversary.

A committee worked to create a revised version of the mission statement, and it was duly approved by the faculty and staff, the president and the Board of Trustees. It reads as follows:

MISSION STATEMENT OF MORRIS COLLEGE

Morris College was founded in 1908 by the Baptist Educational and Missionary Convention of South Carolina to provide educational opportunities for Negro students in response to the historical denial of access to the existing educational system. Today, under the continued ownership of its founding body, the College opens its doors to a culturally and geographically diverse student body, typically from the Southeast and Northeast regions. Morris College is an accredited, four-year, coeducational, residential, liberal arts institution awarding baccalaureate degrees in the arts and sciences.

The College serves the needs of its students, alumni and community.

It serves its students by:

- Providing a sound program of liberal education in selected curricular areas and maintaining a strong program of teacher education.
- Providing counseling in academic, social, career and personal development.
- Promoting a moral, ethical and religious environment which complements the student's total development.

It serves its alumni by:

- Maintaining a continuous relationship which addresses the interests of the alumni and the institution.



Welcome to the campus.

It serves its community by:

- Providing continuing education and services to clergy and laity.
- Promoting the growth and development of the larger community through public service programs.
- Providing research services and facilities in the solution of academic and community problems.

Morris College is primarily a student-centered institution which seeks to fulfill this mission by:

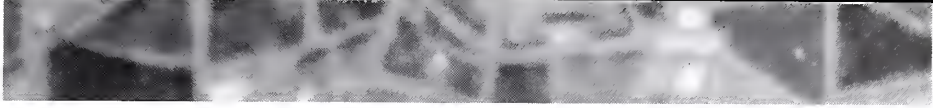
- Evaluating the academic performance of students to ensure their competencies in communication, problem solving and critical thinking.
- Emphasizing a broad understanding of the liberal arts and sciences.
- Emphasizing specific professional and technical skills necessary to meet societal demands.

This student-centered commitment embraces the College's motto, "Enter to Learn; Depart to Serve."

Students coming to school.







12

“The Fire Shall Ever be Burning
Upon the Altar; it Shall Never Go Out”

—Leviticus 6:13

Russell Boyd, Dr. James Soloman
and Dr. Leo Richardson
(left to right).

The primary function of any college is to educate its students to the fullest extent that it can, legitimizing their abilities and capabilities as they depart the hallowed halls of academia. Morris College has a rich tradition and many living legacies to its credit who exemplify the characteristics and traits which have served as measuring sticks of an educated individual. Where are the Alumni now who once sat in the classrooms, strolled across the lawn, held conversations over dinner, participated in intercollegiate athletics and attributed their success in society and the world of work to their beloved alma mater? These African-Americans are forging their path along life's highway as productive and exceptional human beings. The alumni have continued to support the institution by sponsoring annual fund-raising events, increased participation in campus activities and convincing their offspring of the merits of attending Morris College.

Morris College National
Alumni Association Presidents

Dr. Everett Thompson
Reverend John Alsbrooks
Mrs. Brenda D. Dixon
Dr. Bennie Anderson

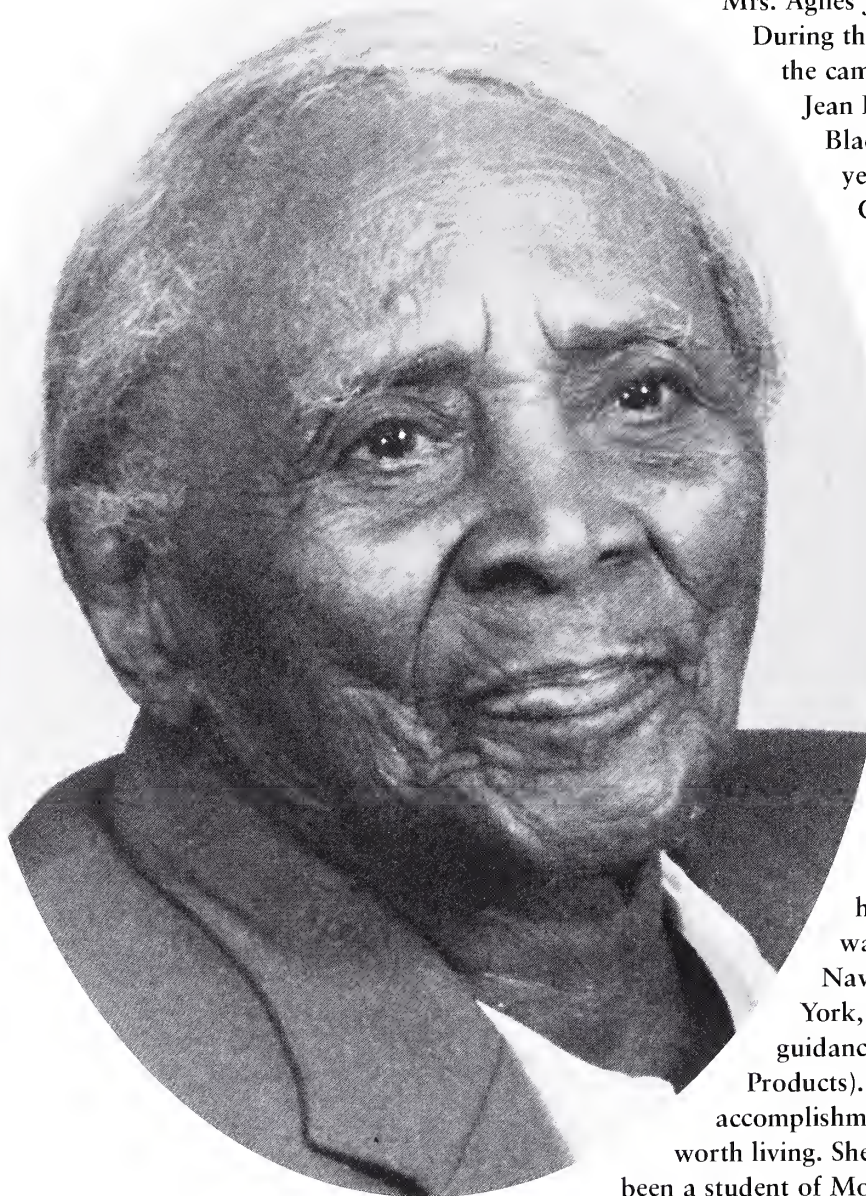
Ms. Edna Evans
Mr. Elias Young
Dr. Leo Richardson
Mr. Russell Boyd

Heritage of a Generation (As told by Jean Blackwell)

Mrs. Winnie Venicia Blackwell Tiller was said to be, one of the first students to enroll at Morris College in 1908 under the Presidency of Dr. Edward M. Brawley. Her mother, Mrs. Agnes Jones Blackwell, was a head cook.

During this time, she lived with her mother on the campus. Two of Mrs. Tiller's nieces, Ms. Jean Blackwell (1947-1948) and Ms. Elzona Blackwell, attended Morris for about a year. When Mrs. Tiller started at Morris College, she started in the first grade through eighth grade class. She attended until she graduated. The school later became a high school, then a college. As we move ninety years forward, Ms. Tiller's grand nephew Caulis Mobley is trying to carry on the family tradition. He will be the only other family member to finish from this institution. Caulis said, "the reason why I decided to pursue a higher education from Morris College is because all of my closest family members went to this institution. So it's up to me to keep the legacy alive."

Mrs. Tiller passed on February 7, 1998 at the home of her niece Ms. Jean Blackwell. If she would have lived until April 26, 1998, she would have been 104 years old. Mrs. Tiller was also a custom shirt operator for the Naval Clothing store in New York, New York, a teacher and a beautician under the guidance of Madame C. J. Walker (Hair Products). In all of Mrs. Tiller's endeavors and accomplishments, you can say that she made her life worth living. She was always especially proud to have been a student of Morris College.



"Homecoming and Royalty are Still a Grand Tradition"

Morris College Athletic Hall of Fame participants in the enshrinement program were (front row): Jerome L. Ballard ('64) of Lake City, All-Conference football player; Dr. Luns C. Richardson, President of Morris; and Mr. R. Russell Boyd, MCNNA President. (Back row): Jimm Floyd ('70) of Conway, basketball star; and Dr. Leo Richardson, Hall of Fame Chairman. Not pictured: Eulo F. Roundtree ('40) of Baltimore, Maryland, outstanding football and baseball player.





Above: Miss Morris College, 1950s (right) and 1961 (left).

Right: The 1982 Homecoming Parade highlighted a full schedule of activities on Thursday, November 25, 1982. The center of attraction this year was the charming Miss Ollie Hampton, a sophomore from Camden, South Carolina, who was crowned Miss Homecoming.





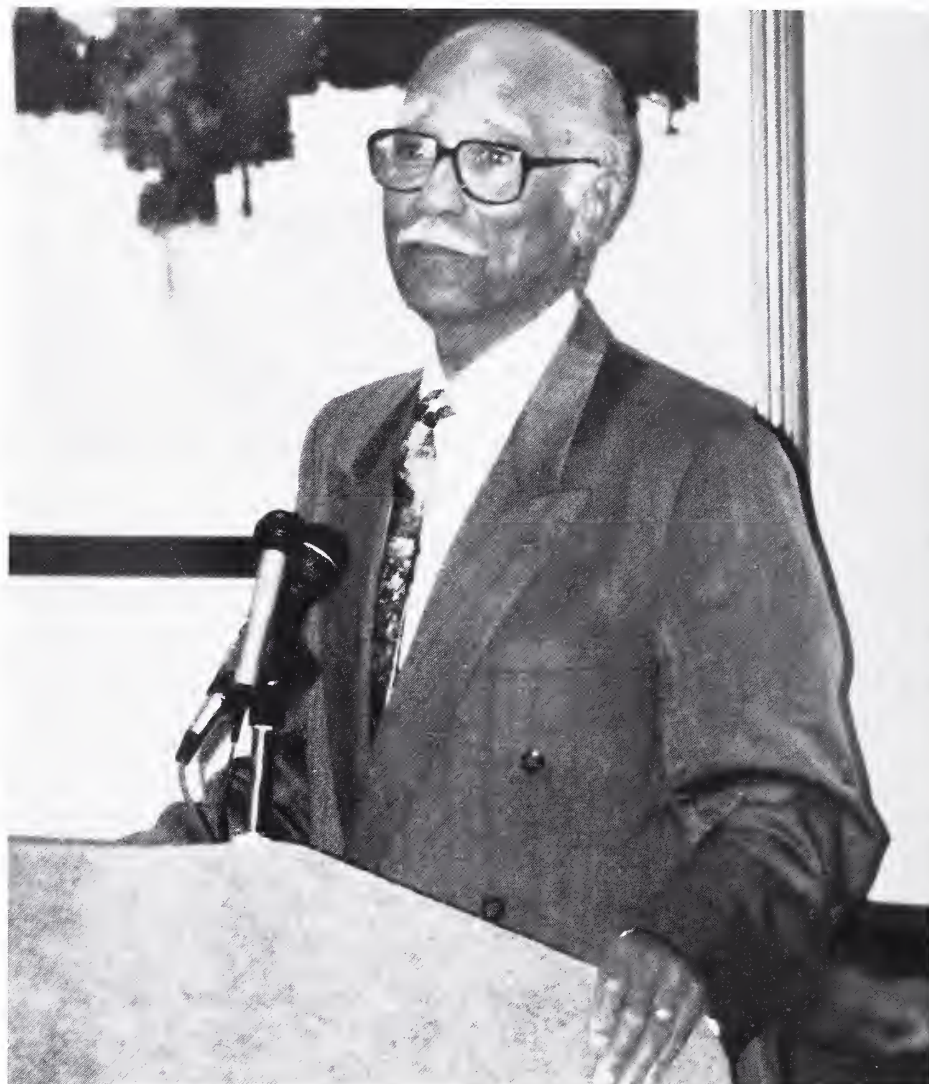
Queens of 1987.



Miss Morris College Alumni Pageant. Left to right: Mrs. Wilhelmina Best of Aynor, contest winner; Dr. Ollie McAllister of Ridgeland; Mrs. Sherrie Grate of Washington, D.C., Mrs. Queen Spann of Sumter and Mrs. Amelia Owens of Greenville.

"They Departed to Serve"

Dr. Jack Tarleton, class of 1939.

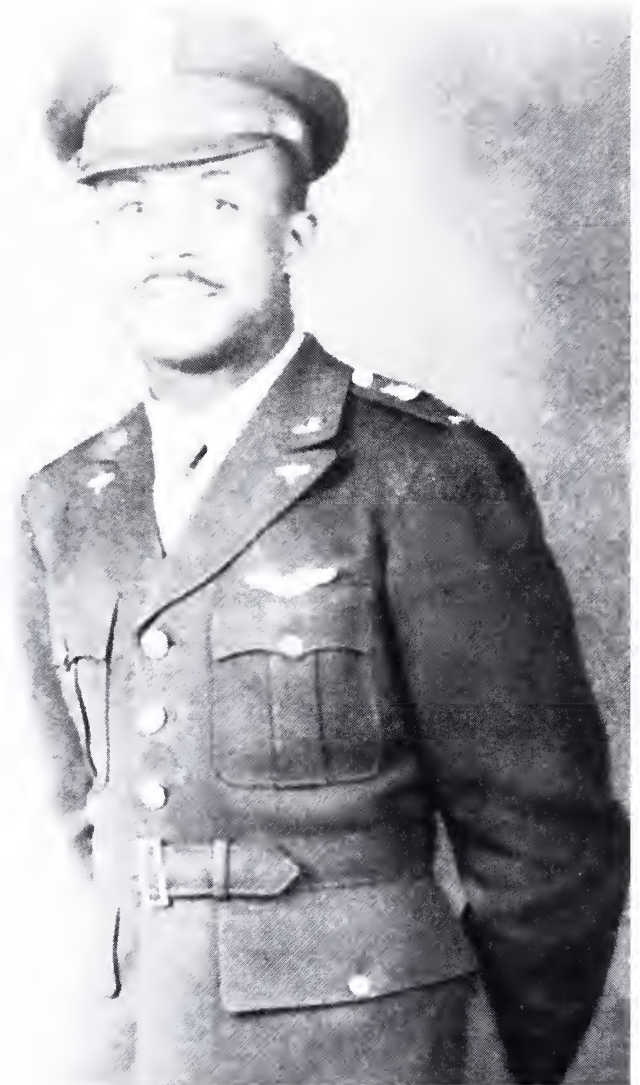


Dr. Elijah McCants teaching a class, became an outstanding educator and Sumter County School District 2 Superintendent.





Mr. James B. Bradley, Hartsville,
South Carolina, class of 1942,
Educator.



"Bowman was among First Blacks in
Air Force." As the nation celebrated
the fiftieth anniversary of the United
States Air Force in 1997, it was fit-
ting that tributes were paid to Leroy
Bowman ('48), a Morris College
graduate who trained as one of the
first "Tuskegee Airmen."



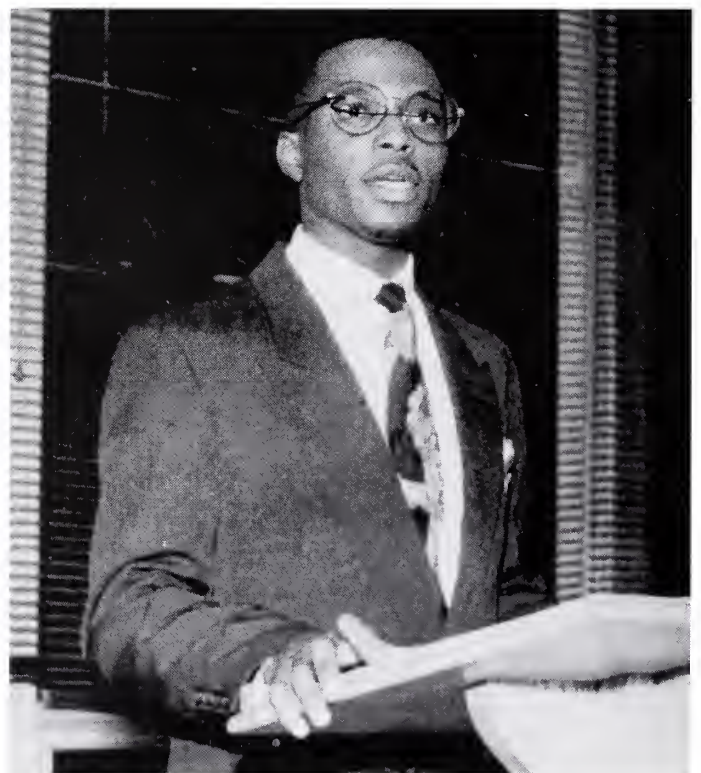
Mr. Hilton Willard Shirley,
community leader, and Educator,
class of 1947.



Vird Ella Williams, class of 1948,
has worked thirty-six years teaching
kindergarten.



Dr. Roosevelt Miott,
Principal.



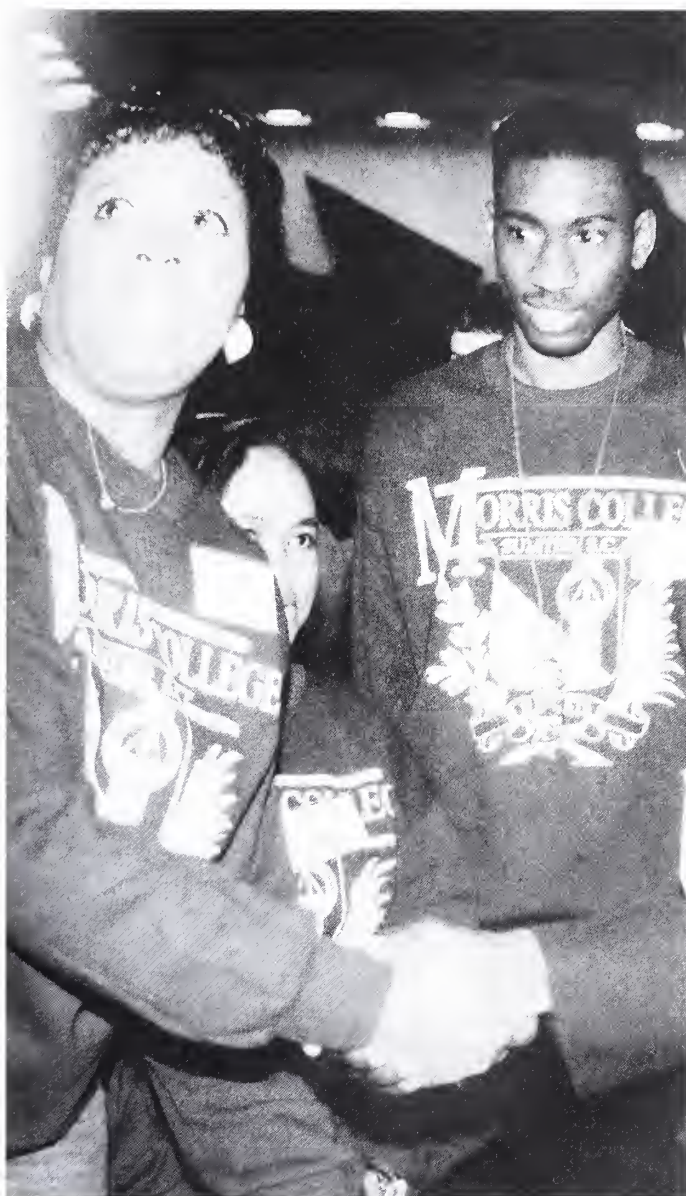
Ronnie Robinson, Educator
Former SGA President.



Mrs. Viola A. Garner, Health Career
Practitioner and Educator, radio
producer/personality.



Dr. Alice S. Graves, retired Educator
and Board Trustee.



Sherri DeJesus Bullock, Health
Educator and Darren Holmes,
former SGA president, class of 1994.



Dr. Richardson presents Educator,
author Althenia Bates Millican,
Presidential Award in 1981.



Judge J. David Weeks, Mayor
Pro-Tem Linda Heron and Mayor
Henry Peoples.



Dr. Richardson presents Dr. Jessie
Taylor an award for forty-five years
of service.



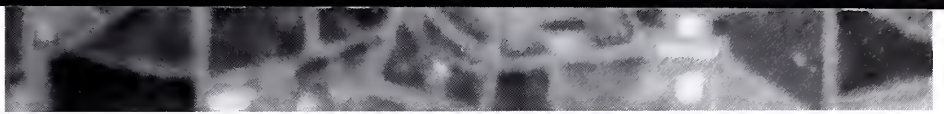
Lanie J. Coleman in 1986 received this citation from
Dr. Richardson. Upon her death, Morris College received
a cash bequest of \$124,348 from the estate of Lanie
Johnson Coleman, retired educator from
Aiken, South Carolina.

Mrs. Coleman was one hundred years old. Over those years she became a loyal supporter of both the Convention and Morris, and she like the forefathers, worked diligently to make both a success.

Her gifts were statements of confidence that Morris College mission as a church owned institution of higher education is well conceived and its reputation as an outstanding college is well-deserved.

"Morris College is grateful for Mrs. Coleman's extraordinary devotion to the welfare of young people and to the advancement of this institution," Morris College President Dr. Luns C. Richardson said. "There is no doubt that she not only wanted to see Morris College preserved, but wanted to see it prosper."





Alumni Reflections

Do you recognize any of these people?

Samuel L. Farrow, from Clinton, South Carolina, attended Morris College. He played football as a half-back and graduated in the class of 1950. He has shared the following antedotes as he remembered them. He played football as a half.

"There were many people from Morris and the Sumter area. Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune visited Morris College around 1944 or 1945. It was said that she thought one of the most important things Morris needed was a library.

Reverend Dr. Henry Butler, who was president of Morris College from 1946-1948, had a son who was a Tuskegee Airman. He was shot down and killed in the line of duty. Dr. Butler went through a lot of "red tape" and expense to get a chance to view his son's body.

Christopher C. Mack and the Austin twins, Paul and Silas, played football also. Chris told about the time when he was in the Navy and his ship was sunk. He was rescued by another black sailor. The sailor had thrown a life line to several white sailors and finally spotted and saved Chris. The black sailor that saved the men was given a medal for his efforts.

Paul talked about their adventures with the Red Ball Express. That was a famous transportation unit in Europe that drove supplies to the front line for General Patton's tank corps and other units. He said they were bombed at times by enemy planes.

Last, but not least, two of the students who attended Morris between 1946 and 1950, Robert Louis Laney of Kershaw, South Carolina, was a S/Sgt. in the Theater of Operation, European. In 1946-1947, Robert was also the treasurer of the freshman class in 1947 and Leroy Thompson also a S/Sgt. in the European Theater of Operation were both killed in combat during the "Korean War."



The Pictorial History Committee. Seated, left to right: Reverend Leonard Griffin, Janet Smith-Clayton, Dr. Mary Vereen-Gordon, Dr. Gerald Polinsky, and Dr. Leroy Staggers. Standing: Zack J. Weston, Altoya Felder-Deas, and Reverend Melvin Mack.

Leonard O. Griffin served as the 1997–1998 Student Government Association President. He and the SGA Officers helped retrieve many boxes of historical documents that were used in this book. He has completed his studies for the Bachelor of Arts degree in Pastoral Ministry and will be graduating May 15, 1999. He presently serves as Pastor of the Zion Field Baptist Church, Aiken, South Carolina.

Janet Smith-Clayton, Co-Chairperson of the committee and co-author.

Dr. Mary Vereen-Gordon, Chairperson and author.

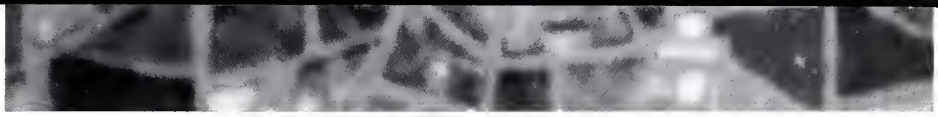
Dr. Gerald Polinsky has been serving as a part-time Management Specialist at Morris College since 1976 and also served part-time as a Professor of Geography during the period 1987–1994. Having worked for President Richardson during the last twenty-two years, he was most qualified to prepare that part of the Morris College history that recounts the Richardson years. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree from Washington University in St. Louis and a doctorate degree from St. Louis University.

Dr. Leroy Staggers is Associate Professor of English and Chairman of the Division of Religion and Humanities. He joined the Morris College family in 1993 and assisted with the research on Dr. Henry Hardin.

Zack J. Weston joined the Morris College staff in January 1995 as Director of Institutional Relations. His duties include editing the *Morris College Campus Report*, the *Morris College Newsletter*, and the *Morris College Update*. He contributed to the research on Dr. J. J. Starks and Dr. O. R. Reuben.

Altoya A. Felder-Deas is the Alumni Affairs Officer in the Office of Planning and Institutional Advancement. She received the B.S. degree from Morris College and the M.Ed. from South Carolina State University. She taught in the public school systems of Georgia and South Carolina prior to joining the Morris College family.

Melvin Mack, is Morris College's Church Relations Officer in the Office of Planning and Institutional Advancement. He received the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Divinity degrees from Morris College. He worked previously in Florence County School District. Ms. Deas and Reverend Mack have worked diligently with keeping the Alumni abreast of the progress and culmination of this Pictorial History.



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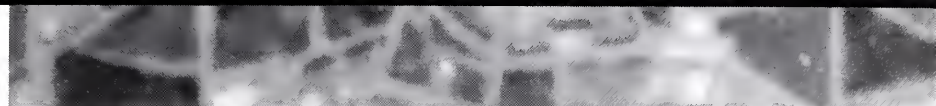
Morris College Yearbooks. 1965–1995.

Index

- "A Penny A Day", 35
- Academic Success Center, 103
- academic programs, 88
- Acting Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences, 77
- Adams, Charles, Dr., 88, 108
- Alma Mater, 1
- Alpha Kappa Mu, 96
- American Association of Higher Education, 66
- A.M.M.A. Hall, 100
- auditorium and instructional facilities, 98
- Bailey, Margaret, 95
- Baker, Romalita, 96
- Baptist Educational, Missionary, and Sunday School Convention of South Carolina, 11
- Baptist Women, 82
- Baseball, 54
- Bennett, Lerone, Dr., (Historian), 108
- Birnie, C. W., Dr., 27
- Black Executive Exchange Program (BEEP), 95
- Black, Eliza E., Dr., 65, 86, 98
- Blake, A. R., Dr., 118
- Blossingame, James, Reverend, 111
- Booker, E. M., Dr., 52
- Booker, E. M., Reverend, 65
- Bowman, Leroy, 9, 55
- Boyd, Russell, 125
- Boykin, J. W., Dr., 45, 57
- Bradley, James B., 131
- Brawley, E. M., Dr. (1908-1912), 19
- Brawley-Starks Hall, 28, 103
- Brisbon, Bobby, 106
- Brockington Halls, 17
- Brooks, J. L., Dr., 77
- Brown, Janiece, (Student Council Representative), 48
- Brown, Pearl, 9
- Brown, Thomas, 62
- Bullock, Sherri DeJesus, 133
- Bultman, W. F. (Treasurer), 48
- Butler, H. H., Dr., 45
- Butler, Henry H., 50
- Calvin, Meocha, 96
- Campbell, B. L., 27
- Campus Female Quartet, The, 35
- candidate for accreditation, 77
- Career Planning and Placement Office, 93
- Chairmen of the Board of Trustees, 118
- Chapel and Religious Center, O. R. Reuben, 99, 101
- Chisholm, Shirley, Dr., 109
- Clark, W. W., Dr., 27
- Clayton, Janet, 90, 91
- Coker, Mamie, Dr., 117
- Coleman, Lanie J., 135
- College entrance (1960), 59
- College motto, 123
- College seal, 46
- college library, 98
- Commercial Club, 33
- Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), 77
- Commissioning of students, 92
- Committee of Twenty-Four, the, 15
- Cooperative Education Program, 77, 78, 93
- Corley, Lester T., 93, 94
- Crawford, Dorothy (Secretary), 62
- Cureton, S. C., Dr., 110
- Daniel's Hall, 69
- Daniels Hall, G. Goings, 69
- Daniels, C. Mackey, Dr., (Trustee), 109
- Daniels, L. E., Mr., 65
- David, Leon Henry, Reverend, 38
- Davis, Margaret, Dr., 9, 90
- Davis, Ossie, Dr., (Actor/Playwriter), 109
- Dean, 77
- DeLane, Eloise Thurmond, 63
- Department of Education, 50
- Dingle, Gregory, 84, 96
- Disadvantaged Students, 77
- Division of General Studies, 93
- Dobbins-Keith Hall, 59
- Doctor, Henry, Jr., Major General, 106
- Donovan, Marie, Sister, 85
- Dramatic Players, 32
- Durham Ministerial Alliance, 89
- Durham Ministerial Union, 32
- Durham, J. J., Dr., 13
- early visionaries, 11
- EIAC baseball champions, 97
- Elders, M. Joycelyn, Dr., 111
- Epps, Ameache (Community Affairs Announcer), 91

- Epsilon Lambda Chapter-Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, 95
facilities, 98
Farrow, Samuel L., 9
Fine Arts Building, W. H. Neal-Iola Jones, 98
Finney, Ernest A., Jr., (Chief Justice, South Carolina Supreme Court), 113
first building on site (agreement), 17
first graduating class (1913), 24
Football, 55
Foundation for the Advancement of Small Colleges, 66
Fowler, Inez, 62
Frazier, Carolyn, 86
Gandy, C. F., 45
Garner, Viola A., 133
Garrick, J. P., Dr., 27, 45
Garrick, J. P., Reverend (Faculty Advisor), 48
Garrick-Boykin Gymnasium, 69, 102
George, Ruth, 62
Gibbs-Syndab, Ethel (family), 74
Gillard, Beulah, 62
Givens, W. E., Dr., 116
Golden, Frederick, 9
Grant, Rae, 96
Grant, Viola, 9
Graphic Center, 99
Graves, Alice, Dr., 9
Gray, William H., Dr., III, (Former United States Congressman, President and Chief Executive Officer-The College Fund/UNCF), 113
Greek-letter organizations, 93
Gregg, Lou Emma, 9
Griffin, Leonard, Reverend (SGA President, 1997-1998), 98
groundbreaking, 89
Hardin, Henry E., Dr., 77, 78, 88
Harvey, Isaiah, Reverend, 112
Heron, Linda, Mayor Pro-Tem, 135
Hester, Arabella, 62
Hickman, Eva, 9
high school class, 46
Hill, Loretta Poole, 9
Holmes, Darren (Educator), 133
Homecoming Parade (1982), 128
Homecoming Queens (1987), 129
Howard Home Economics Building, Mabel K., 67
Howard, Mabel K., 45
Human Development Center, Garrick-Boykin, 99, 102
Hurricane Hugo, 102
incorporation certificate, 21
interim committee, 75, 77
Iota Zeta Chapter-Phi Beta Sigma, 94
Jackson, Jesse, Reverend (Commencement Speaker, 1982 and 1994), 113
Jackson, Maynard, Mayor, 110
James, Mary, 62
Johnson, A. J., Reverend (pastor and contractor), 17
Johnson, Cassandra, 86
Johnson, Ed F., Dr., 118
Johnson, Ernestine, 113
Johnson, Rodney, 9
Johnson, W. A., Dr., 111
Johnson, Wescott, Dr., 112, 118
Jones, E. C., Jr., 9
Jones, Ronald, 72
Keatson, Rossie, 72
Kenely, James, 73
Lambda Epsilon Chapter-Kappa Alpha Psi, 94
Lanier, Eric, 96
Learning Resource Center, 83
Learning Resource Center, L. C. Richardson-W. A. Johnson, 84, 98
Legare Hall (1915), 24
Legare Hall, 58
Lewis, M. A., Mrs., 65
Lewis, Samuel (Program Director), 91
Lewis, Wilbert, 9
Liberal Studies, 77
Lindsay, Eunice E., 62
Little Symphony Orchestra, The, 34
Little Theatre, The, 34
Majestic Studios, 9
Marshall, John D., Dr., 112
Mathis Studio, 9
Mathis, Charlie, 9
Mays, Benjamin, Dr., 104
McAlister, Ollie Simmons, 63, 9
McBeth, Zyretta, 96
McCain, J. T., 27, 55
McCants, Elijah, Dr., 130
McGowan, R. M., 21
McKenzie, Alvin R., 62
McLester, Marion W., Dr., 73, 100
McNair, Robert E., Honorable Governor, 69
McNair, Ronald, Dr., 105
Media Center, 98
Memorable Moments, 104
Men in Divinity School, 27
Men's residence hall, (J. O. Rich, S. C. Cureton, Ed F. Johnson Hall), 99
Mid-Winter Banquet, 115
midwives, 45
Mighty Hornets, The (1965), 69
Military, 54
Millican, Arthenia Bates, Dr., 9, 65, 134
Miss Morris College (1948), 63
Miss Morris College (1952), 62
Mission Statement, 121
Mitchell, Theo (Representative), 95
Morris College Athletic Hall of Fame participants, 127
Morris College Board of Trustees, 27
Morris College Connection, 78
Morris College Miracle, 1974-1984, The, 83
Morris College National Alumni Association Presidents, 125
Morris College School of Religion, 66
Morris, E. C., Dr., 11
Morris, Frank, Reverend, 16
Morrisite, 36
Moss, Thomas, 100
Mu Lambda Chapter Inductees, 96
National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education, 66
Neal, W. H., Dr., 9, 77, 105
New woman's dorm, 120
New women's residence hall, 99
Nu Gamma Chapter-Alpha Kappa Alpha, 94
Oliver, Stewart, Dr., 13
Organizational Management, 91
Pastoral Ministry (new program), 91
Peoples, Henry, Mayor, 135
Perry, Matthew J., Jr., Civil Rights leader, 107
Pictorial History Committee, 139
Pi Theta Chapter-Zeta Phi Beta, 94
Pinckney, Margaret, 9

- Pinson Brothers Quartet, The, 35
 Pinson Building, 50
 Pinson, Bessie, 52
 Pinson, I. D., Dr., 27
 Pinson, Jesse, Reverend, 38
 Pollard, Andrew E., 72
 Ponder, Henry, Dr., 104
 President's Home, 99
 Presidential Award (1981), 134
 Presidents of the Baptist
 Education and Missionary
 Convention, 116
 Presidents of the Woman's
 Convention, 117
 Prince, Fred, 84
 Prioleau, Donna, 96
 programs in art, music and theater, 98
 Project Helping Hand, 77
 Ramsey, Matthew, 86
 Randolph, Belinda, (President,
 SGA, 1983), 107
 Religious Education (Christian
 Education), 91
 Religious Emphasis week, 91
 Reserve Officers Training Corps
 (ROTC), 93
 Reuben, Anna D., 65, 75
 Reuben, Anna, Dr., 77, 82
 Reuben, Odell, Dr., 61, 75
 Reuben, Odell, Jr., 9
 Rich, Arabella, Dr., 9, 117
 Rich, J. O., Dr., 108
 Richardson, Dr., 109
 Richardson, L. C., Dr., 111, 113
 Richardson, Leo, 62, 72
 Richardson, Leo, Dr., 125
 Richardson, Luns C., Dr., 81
 Richie, Joseph (Media
 Coordinator), 87
 Riley, Dick (Governor), 107
 Riley, Rosa, Dr., (Educator), 109
 Robertson, Tatsha (Miss Morris
 College), 91
 Rocky River Association, 13
 Rogers, Elizabeth Bannister, 63
 Rose, Kenny, 100
 Ross, Sadie (Secretary), 48
 Russell-McLeod, Patricia, Dr.,
 111
 Sanders, Beatrice, Dr., (Professor
 Emeritus), 108
 Sanders, Beatrice, Dr., 9
 Sanford, Marion, Dr. (Dean of
 Students), 98
 School of Religion (dissolving of),
 91
 School of Religion, 77
 Security Office, 99
 SGA Officers, 84
 Shirley, Hilton Willard, 132
 Shirley, Hilton, 53
 Shirley, Hilton, Sr., 9
 Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.,
 95
 Simmons, James, (Vice President),
 48
 Sims, Oliver C. (President), 62
 Smith, Leroy, Sr., 9
 Smith, Richard, Dr., 90
 Soloman, James, Dr., 125
 Southern Association of Colleges
 and Schools, 66
 Spann, Queen (Director of
 Admissions and Records'
 Archives), 9
 Spann, Queen, 113
 Special Services, 77
 Stalling, R. W., Reverend, 77, 86
 Starks, J. J., Dr., 23
 Starks, John Jacob, Dr., 23
 Starks, Julia Ann Sherard, 27
 Stocker, Willette (Music Director,
 Announcer), 91
 Student Center, 99, 119
 Student Government Officers, 62
 Student Ministers, 85
 summer institute for ministers, 45
Sumter Headlight, The, 34
 Swinton, Sylvia, Dr., 100
 Syndab, Ricky, 74
 Tarleton, Jack, Dr., 130
 Taylor, Jessie W., Dr., (chairper-
 son), 77
 Taylor, Jessie, Dr., 9, 135
 Teagle Foundation, 93
 Thanksgiving rally, 89, 115
 The Compact, 31
 Thomas, Latta, Dr., 9
 Thompson, E., Mr., 86
 Thompson, Eunice, 9
 Thurmond, Strom, Senator, 112
 Tiller, Winnie Venicia Blackwell,
 126
 Tobin Resolution, 13, 15
 Triangle Association, 66
 Trustee of the Century, 118
 Tuskegee Airmen, 131
 Upward Bound, 77
 Upward Bounders, 78
 Vaughn, Earl, Dr., (School
 District Administrator), 110
 Vereen-Gordon, Mary, Dr., (Dean
 of Academic Affairs), 93
 Walker, Wyatt Tee, Dr., (Senior
 Pastor, Cannan Baptist Church
 of Christ), 112
 Wateree Association, 16
 Wateree Upper Division, 16
 Weeks, David, 86
 Weeks, J. David, Judge, 135
 Wheatley, Phyllis, 17
 White Chapel, E. D., 52
 White Memorial Hall, 45
 Whitener, Mary, 68
 Whittleton, Daisy, 9
 Williams, Helen (Assistant
 Secretary), 62
 Williams, John (President), 48
 Williams, L. W., Reverend, 85
 Williams, NiCole (Miss Morris
 College, 1997-1998), 98
 Williams, P. T., Dr., (Honor
 Society speaker), 96
 Williams, P. T., Dr., 9
 Williams, Vird Ella, 9, 132
 Wilson, W. L., Dr., 77
 Wilson-Booker Science Building,
 68
 Women's residence hall, (Anna D.
 Reuben, Mamie Coker,
 Magnolia Lewis, Albertha
 Simmons Hall), 99
 WQMC-AM, 85
 Wright, T. B., 16
 Xi Epsilon Chapter-Alpha Phi
 Alpha Fraternity, Inc., 94
 Xi Rho Chapter, Delta Sigma
 Theta Sorority, Inc., 94
 Yearbook staff, 90
 York, Sunida, 9



About the Authors



Mary Vereen-Gordon joined Morris College in August 1983. She held the position of Director of Curriculum Development and serves now as Academic Dean, holds the rank of tenured professor in Education. Her administrative duties include supervision and leadership for the Division of Academic Affairs and serving as second in executive authority during the President's absence.

She serves as chairperson for the Committee on Academic Rank and Extended Contracts and on Academic Policy. Other committee assignments include co-chair of the Planning Committee, membership on numerous other committees of the college in ex-officio status. She has served as a mentor to incoming freshmen students.

Prior to her current position, Dr. Vereen-Gordon has held positions as a faculty member at Winston-Salem State University and Kentucky State University. She has a public school teaching background in North Carolina.

Dr. Vereen-Gordon received her Bachelor of Arts degree in English Education from North Carolina A&T State University, Master of Arts in English from Atlanta University, and Doctor of Philosophy from University of Wisconsin-Madison. She continues to be a lifelong learner with further education experiences at the Bryn Mawr Women in Higher Education Administration Institute and Harvard University's Institute of Education Management.

Her community and civic service affiliations include YWCA, NAACP, ACAP, and auxiliaries within her church. She is married to James L. Gordon, planner for Orangeburg County.



Janet Smith Clayton has served Morris College since January 1987. She is the Director of the Learning Resources Center, holds faculty rank and teaches a course in Instructional Media. She supervises the Library, Media Operations, Academic Computer Laboratory and is the General Manager of WQMC-AM, commercial radio station. She has the responsibility to direct a Title III activity for Improving Instructional Laboratories and Support Services.

Her extracurricular activities on campus has included serving for 1988–1994 as advisor for Xi Rho Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Coronation Committee Chairperson for four years, a member of various institutional committees and advisor for WMCC-AM, the student operated radio station. She served for two terms on the Morris College Board of Trustees as the faculty representative.

Prior to her current position, Mrs. Clayton was employed ten years at WIS-TV Channel 10, NBC affiliate in Columbia, South Carolina, as a Production Technician/Audio Operator. While there she had the honor of attending the 1986 Emmy Awards Ceremony held in Hollywood, California.

Mrs. Clayton received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Journalism from Clark College (Clark Atlanta University) in Atlanta, Georgia and a Masters of Arts in Education and Human Development Leadership Technology from George Washington University in Washington, D.C.

She is very civic minded and community oriented. A Sumter native and life-long member of Emmanuel United Methodist Church. She has held numerous offices in all areas. She is presently a Board of Trustees member for the Sumter County Museum and the YWCA of the Upper Lowlands.

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